

## Gorbachov heralds drive for reforms

### Bid to ease East-West tension

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In a major televised speech designed to reassert his place on the domestic and world stage, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov last night warned the Soviet people that the main part of his reform drive still lay ahead and launched a new initiative designed to lessen East-West naval tension in northern waters.

Referring to the first time to the third superpower summit meeting due in the US before the end of the year, Mr Gorbachov said with a note of optimism: "The meeting with the US President might start a peaceful chain-reaction in the sphere of strategic offensive arms, the non-placement of arms in space and many other items on a possible agenda of international dialogue."

His remarks reinforced hopes expressed by Soviet officials that sufficient

groundwork has already been completed to permit the superpowers to reach an agreement limiting strategic missiles by 50 per cent by the middle of next year, possibly in time for President Reagan to attend a fourth summit meeting in Moscow.

Speaking to a live television audience estimated at more than 100 million viewers, Mr Gorbachov said it was still two or three years before they could see results from his reconstruction drive.

He also said that changes in Soviet wholesale, purchase and retail prices could not be avoided if the economy was to be revitalized.

The pledge on implementing price changes demanded by his more radical advisors was seen as part of Mr Gorbachov's vigorous, post-holiday determination to throw down the gauntlet to his conservative opponents who fear public reaction.

Speaking to a large Communist rally in Murmansk, Mr Gorbachov urged the Soviet people to "go into the attack" in order to carry out the reforms of the economy. "You know what the political guidelines are," he said. "The corresponding legal documents have been adopted and there is a need for action now for the initiatives of the masses."

Earlier, in a series of walkabouts in the Arctic port, Mr Gorbachov warned that the next 18 months to two years was a crucial period for the Soviet Union. He described his programme as "a revolution without shots" and urged ordinary people not to panic—thought mainly to be a reference to the impending price rises.

Mr Gorbachov told Soviet workers that his policies were revolutionary. "It is a revolution—without shots, but a deep and serious one," he explained. "You have to keep yourselves in check comrades, and you must not panic. Never. It might be difficult. Sometimes it might be unpleasant."

Accompanied by his wife, Raisa, making her first public appearance since rumours that she had been ill, Mr



Mr Gorbachov yesterday: "This is a critical time."

Gorbachov pulled few punches in his talks with airport, canteen and factory workers.

"I tell you, honestly, it is going to be difficult. But if we get our flywheel turning, a great deal will be added in the country, and very quickly," he assured his audience, many of whom fired back questions about his views on the progress of perestroika (restructuring).

Speaking to scientific experts during his hectic tour of the city, Mr Gorbachov disclosed that the Politburo had already met in Moscow since his return from holiday, and

had concluded that the country had embarked on a decisive stage of the reform process.

The next 18 months, he added, would be critical as the policies of change began to have their effect on tens of millions of Soviet people. "During these years, we will advance both reform and the process of democracy," he said confidently.

Western experts noted that Mr Gorbachov had made similar clarification calls during previous "meet the people" tours in other regions of the Soviet Union. "One of his main aims is to win the grass roots on to his side in his struggle against the bureaucrats," a senior European diplomat said.

Mr Gorbachov also attempted to convince local people of the importance of his stringent anti-alcohol campaign—which is deeply unpopular in many parts of the Soviet Union—by arguing that it was saving 300,000 lives a year. "What value can you put on that?" he added rhetorically.

Looking tanned and fit after his summer break by the Black Sea, he also explained what he meant by stating that the Soviet Union needed more democracy. "Democracy is conscious discipline and an understanding of the need for everyone to participate," he said.

"But it is not the lack of discipline and responsibility, it is not the claim to a right to do as you please. No. If you live in society you are not free from that society."

Last night's speech was a tour de force described by

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## Drop-out brother tries to clear Hayward



Captain Hayward, accompanied by Swedish court officials and lawyers, inspecting the Jaguar car yesterday in which the drugs were found that led to his arrest.

## Taped plea to Swedish court

From Michael McCarthy, Stockholm

The voice of the one person who can clear Simon Hayward, the Life Guards captain sentenced to five years in prison in Sweden for drug smuggling, rang out in the courtroom where his appeal was being heard yesterday, protesting his innocence.

Christopher Hayward, the soldier's brother, a drop-out and suspected drug smuggler who got the captain to drive a Jaguar carrying cannabis to Sweden from Ibiza, has disappeared and is still refusing all entreaties to come forward.

But yesterday Captain Hayward's defence lawyers sprang a surprise on the Stockholm Court of Appeal when they played a tape of Christopher Hayward insisting that his brother, who has always maintained he was completely innocent of the Moroccan hashish, worth £500,000, hidden in the frame of the car, indeed knew nothing of the drugs.

The tape was of a telephone call Christopher Hayward made to their mother, Mrs Hazel Hayward, at a friend's house in London late last Friday night. There was no indication whether he was speaking from Britain or abroad and Mrs Hayward said she did not know.

The court was hushed as the tape recorder was switched on. A clear and precise English voice announced: "My name is Christopher David Hayward. Today's date is September 25."

He went on: "I am the owner of a Jaguar car, metallic green, registration number HMF 959X. In March this year, at the beginning of March, I asked my brother Simon if he would deliver the car to Sweden to a man known to me as Lokesh."

"I told Simon that Lokesh would sell the car after converting it to left-hand drive. I also told him that I did not want to drive the car myself, as I wanted to spend some time with a girlfriend in France."

"As Simon was due in England very soon, I told him he should just leave the car with Lokesh and fly home."

"At no time did I mention anything to Simon about drugs and I never told him there were drugs in the car."

"Under these conditions, Simon agreed to drive the car for me."

The recording, which was clearly a surprise to the prosecution, came at the end of an hour's evidence by Mrs Hayward herself.

## Guinness broker arrested

By Lawrence Lever and Stewart Tandler

Mr Tony Parnes, the stockbroker nicknamed "the Animal" and a central figure in the Guinness affair, was arrested at Los Angeles airport early yesterday.

Mr Parnes was arrested at the request of the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad as he was entering the US on a flight from France. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had a warrant from the fraud squad charging him with four offences of falsifying accounts.

The alleged offences relate to a payment by Guinness of £3.4 million to Mr Parnes via a Swiss company. The fraud squad is to begin the process to extradite him immediately.

Mr Parnes played a key role in the massive buying of Guinness shares to boost the company's share price during its takeover battle for the Distillers group last year.

He was interviewed by Department of Trade inspectors before leaving the country in July and was believed to be living in Europe. His wife Denise, sister of Gerald Ratner, head of the Ratners jewellery company, met him in France about three weeks ago. She and their three young children were with Mr Parnes when he was arrested.

IN PART 2

£767m bid

A £767 million bid for S&W Berisford, the commodity trader, has come from Associated British Foods, which already has a 23.7 per cent stake. Page 25

Brands shift

The Royal Automobile Club announced yesterday that Brands Hatch is its preferred venue for the 1988 British Grand Prix. Page 48

Portfolio

There is £8,000 to be won today in the Portfolio Gold competition—double the usual amount because there was no winner yesterday. Page 31

TIMES FOCUS

Half Britain's houses are more than 50 years old, and most need repairs. A Special Report examines how this acute problem is being met. Pages 33, 40

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## The Queen rebuffs Rabuka

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Queen yesterday refused to accept a statement by the Fiji coup leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, that he had replaced her as head of state.

Neither Buckingham Palace nor the Foreign Office was ready to treat Colonel Rabuka's apparently unequivocal statement as final. There is a strong conviction that he is caught in a struggle

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between rival strands of Melanesian opinion.

British diplomats in Suva believe that pressure from the hard-line Taukei Movement caused his sudden U-turn yesterday. His decision to revoke the 1970 Constitution and to rule by decree came only hours after a compromise had seemed on the cards.

Informed sources share the opinion expressed yesterday by Fiji's deposed Prime Minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, that although vocal, the Taukei Movement has limited and declining support. He said it was quite possible that a backlash would appear.

A statement from Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen is following developments closely and continues to regard the Governor-General, who is still at his post, as the sole legitimate source of executive authority in Fiji."

She was in touch early yesterday with the Governor-General, Ram Sir Penaia Ganilau, who is her personal representative in Fiji. He assured her he was still at his post.

The British, Australian, Indian and New Zealand governments reaffirmed their backing for Ratu Ganilau, as

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## Labour defence debate

## Kinnock toys with Trident

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday opened up the possibility of Labour fighting the next election on a non-unilateralist defence policy.

He suggested that the Trident missile system could be used as a bargaining counter to secure reciprocal arms reductions from the Russians rather than scrapping it immediately—a policy switch which runs the risk of setting off the "civil war" in his party threatened by Mr Ken Livingstone and Mr Arthur Scargill if Labour were to abandon its non-nuclear policy.

On the day the Labour conference in Brighton untied Mr Kinnock's hands by backing a review of the timetable and negotiating strategy for implementing Labour's non-nuclear defence policy, he refused to rule out using Trident as a "negotiating chip".

At the last election Labour was committed to scrap the Trident programme, then in the early stages, and Mr Kinnock pledged the recall of Polaris submarines within a fortnight of coming to power. In a BBC interview yesterday,

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however, the Labour leader countenanced the possibility of a bilateral deal with the Soviet Union over Trident.

He said: "I have made it clear many times that the Soviet Union was willing to dismantle a precisely similar weapon system to that of Polaris as a consequence of our doing so. It is conceivable that the same kind of arrangement could be undertaken against the background of

strategic arms reductions in the case of Trident."

He was speaking before a passionate conference debate during which right wing union leaders were bawled out for suggesting more fundamental changes in the policy. It was marked by a series of bitter attacks by leadership supporters, including Mr Denis Healey, on Mr Livingstone.

Preparing the ground for a crucial shift in Labour's position, Mr Kinnock and his aides are insisting that there is a difference between a non-nuclear policy, which remains their objective, and a unilateralist one. They accept that defence policy was a major factor in Labour's election defeat and they believe that they chose the wrong means of achieving their non-nuclear aim in June.

Just as the Labour leadership last winter watered down

its original policy of sending home Cruise missiles and accepted that they should play a part in securing an INF deal with the Russians, when that became a possibility, they are now prepared to react further to the changing world arms situation in relation to Trident, which will be an established fact by the next election and not just an advance programme which could be cancelled.

Labour will remain committed with the leadership's blessing to a non-nuclear policy, confirmed by the party conference yesterday. But party leaders believe that they must now pursue it by multi-lateral means as well as unilateral means, involving the use of Trident in arms negotiations.

Senior party sources were explaining yesterday that

Continued on page 24, col 1

## TSB aims for Hill Samuel

The TSB Group is today expected to launch a bid worth more than £700 million for Hill Samuel, the troubled merchant banking group, which yesterday called a halt to dealings in its shares after speculation pushed them up from 680p to 705p.

Hill Samuel has been linked with takeover speculation for some months, having been in talks with the Union Bank of Switzerland and then Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency.

Last night both companies refused to comment.

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## Big cancer risk for Sellafield children

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Cases of childhood leukaemia and cancer in Seascale, the village bordering the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing works, occur up to ten times more frequently than the national average, according to research results published today.

The figures confirm the findings of Sir Douglas Blacker, former chief scientific adviser to the Department of Health and Social Security, who reported similar conclusions three years ago.

The new figures, published in the *British Medical Journal*, show that the excess of cancers is confined to children born to mothers resident in the Cumbrian town.

The findings come from two

studies of children, one group of 1,068 born in Sellafield and another group of 1,546 children born outside the parish but attending local schools. The results are unambiguous.

The leukaemia and cancer cases in young children occurred only among those born in Seascale.

The investigators for both studies, led by Dr Martin Gardner, professor of medical statistics at Southampton General Hospital, and Dr John Terrell, district medical officer at West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven, say this raises the question of whether the local factors causing childhood cancer were acting before or after birth.

government buildings were evacuated.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic on Los Angeles' network of freeways came to a halt as motorists reported their cars being bounced around "three or four feet" by the rolling earthquake.

Radio announcers warned listeners: "Don't go to work today...Don't drive on the freeway...Stay put in your homes and above all stay calm."

One woman on the 11th floor of a high rise building, almost in tears, said: "The whole building began to sway back and forth and I had a vision of the building crashing over and me being crushed to death."

## Abortion pill goes on trial in Britain

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A thousand pregnant women are being offered an experimental abortion pill in the first trial of its kind in Britain.

The drug RU486, developed in France by the Roussel-Uclaf pharmaceutical company, is a possible alternative to conventional surgical abortion for women in the early weeks of pregnancy.

The Department of Health and Social Security has approved clinical evaluation of the drug, which acts by blocking progesterone receptors in the womb lining, and the trial began in a dozen hospitals or clinics last month.

Women volunteering to take RU486 will be evaluated

by two doctors before being given a single dose of three tablets. Only women with pregnancies of less than seven weeks, whose termination is considered clinically necessary, will be included.

Similar studies are underway in more than 20 other countries. Mr Tony Easton, a senior executive at the company's British subsidiary, Roussel Laboratories, said yesterday the British trial would take about 12 months.

No launch of the drug on the British market was contemplated before late 1989, when, if approved, it would be available only on prescription under strict safeguards.

## California panics as earthquake shakes cities

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Millions of southern Californians were shaken early yesterday by a massive 20-second earthquake that struck in the heart of Los Angeles, swaying skyscrapers, bringing rush-hour traffic to a halt and sending panic-stricken people rushing into the streets.

The quake recorded 6.0 on the Richter scale and was centred some nine miles from Pasadena, which puts its epicentre in the centre of the heavily-populated city.

Despite the severity of the jolt, which was felt 300 miles away in Las Vegas, 90 miles to the north in Santa

Barbara and 120 miles south to San Diego and the Mexican border town of Tijuana, early reports indicated three deaths and at least 24 injuries. One death occurred when a piece of masonry fell on a man in a parking lot at a college.

Mountain roads were blocked by landslides and one big department store was on fire. There were also reports of several heart attacks and one elderly woman broke a leg.

The worst damage seemed to occur to the psyche of the 13 million Los Angeles County residents. Hundreds of people, many still in their pyjamas, rushed into the streets, and all

Throughout the morning jittery residents were continually shaken by more than a dozen aftershocks.

I live some 70 miles from the epicentre and my house rocked for some five to ten seconds. Our 60-year-old home shook as though a train was going through it.

For years now Californians have lived with the warning that they are long overdue for a massive quake because of the San Andreas fault that runs from northern California through the Los Angeles area. The worst quake in recent years occurred in February 1971 in the Sylmar area of Los Angeles, killing 65 people.

## The King Size from Dunhill



The fine lettering confirms the fact. London, Paris, New York—or indeed anywhere you travel. Dunhill King Size is renowned for its distinctive quality. Created by master blenders, employing care, patience and infinite skill, Dunhill King Size offers exceptional smoothness.

Blended to your taste



LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government  
Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES  
Health Department's Chief Medical Officers



## NEWS SUMMARY

## Problem trains go into store

British Rail is taking 30 of its 160 lightweight Pacer trains out of service until it can get spare gear box parts. The Pacers, cheap trains made by putting bus-style coaches on top of modified freight chassis, have had many problems since being introduced in 1983 to replace obsolete rolling stock on branch lines and short distance routes, mainly in the north. Wheels have worn out much sooner than expected, gear boxes have been unreliable, and last month Pacers were withdrawn from Devon and Cornwall because they could not cope with the severe gradients and curves. On some tracks in the Newcastle area, Pacers have had to be hauled by diesel locomotives.

British Rail said yesterday that the 20 withdrawn units, from a depot at Newton Heath near Manchester, would be stored at Crewe for up to several months until replacement parts were available.

## Prisons chief Oxbridge effort

A circuit judge who has written legal books is to be the new chief inspector of the prison service.

Judge Tumim, aged 57, takes up his post on November 1 in succession to Sir James Hennessy, a former diplomat.

Judge Tumim has been chairman of the Friends of the Tate Gallery since 1983. He has been a circuit judge since 1978 and will remain a member of the judiciary on secondment for his five-year period of office.

## Oxbridge effort

An Oxford graduate is to head a fund-raising campaign for Cambridge University. It was announced yesterday. Mr William Squire, aged 59, at present Britain's ambassador to Israel, will take up the post in April.

The new university fund aims to double the average £3 million a year raised by individual faculties. Dr Stephen Fleet, the university registrar, said: "We need a lot more money to support teaching and research."

## Fears for Channel 4

London Business School experts say that Channel 4's distinctive programming for specialist and minority audiences could be at risk if it is forced to sell its own advertising airtime (Our Media Editor writes).

Professor Andrew Ehrenberg and Dr Patrick Barwise say that "privatizing" the channel, funded by ITV companies who profit from its advertisements, would involve it in a ratings war, adversely affect its programming, but not cut the cost of advertising.

"C4 should continue to compete in its right market, which everyone accepts is that of giving viewers wider choice. Changing its way of operating seems worse than pointless."

## Stab case cash plea Screening demand

The west London woman freed at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday after admitting killing a man who was raping her is to seek compensation. The judge ruled that Mrs Janet Chapman, of Paddington, acted in self-defence in stabbing Steven Copen.

Yesterday Mr Stephen Dawson, her solicitor, said an application would be made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board on the basis that she was assaulted. He said a psychiatric report showed she suffered severe psychological damage.

The Government is being pressed to introduce workplace cervical cancer screening for 300,000 women Civil Servants.

The Council of Civil Service Unions said yesterday that it would cost £1 million a year, compared with £12 million to provide women with time off work to attend a centre.

The unions say that a pilot scheme in Cardiff proved that workplace screening was not only cheaper, but much more effective in reaching women who needed screening.

## Scientists oppose university research shake-up

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Britain's university scientists are uniting to oppose reforms which they believe will cause irreversible damage to basic research in the UK.

An unprecedented meeting of 16 learned societies, representing most of the university scientists in Britain, takes place today to discuss plans for limiting research to certain institutions and concentrating on work that is likely to have some obvious application.

Scientists covering all disciplines believe that such sweeping proposals would stifle original or "blue sky" research, which can produce the most valuable but unexpected results.

The reforms have been suggested by advisers to the Department of Education and Science.

Speaking for the Biochemical Society yesterday, Professor Harold Baum, who is also dean of the UK's largest department for teaching and research in life sciences, at King's College, London, said: "The action of the societies reflects dismay that science funding has sunk to a level where changes with such catastrophic implications should have to be considered."

Professor Baum said the criteria for supporting scientific research would no longer be on its timeliness, excellence and pervasiveness in adding to scientific knowledge.

The changes would come from a three-tier plan proposed by the Government's Advisory Board for the Research Councils as a way of coping with the shrinking science budget.

There would be: Fifteen "Type R" centres of excellence offering teaching and equipped for the highest level research; A number of "Type X" institutions, which would do teaching and a limited amount of research in subjects in which they had already or could achieve pre-eminence.

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The Green Paper quotes numerous examples of what the Government believes are "irresponsible or unjust" trade union methods in seeking to evade or ignore statutory requirements. To counter this, further legislation will limit what Mr Fowler said was "the possibility of unions coercing employees, by threats of disciplinary action, to strike in circumstances where they would wish to honour their employment contracts."

The Secretary of State made it clear that although he would have preferred to get the unions to agree on further reforms the controversial

clause was "a point of principle" which the Government could not concede. The individual union member had an obligation to his employer which was "too important to allow it to be influenced by the threat of union discipline."

The Government is concerned that under the present law a union member who votes in a strike ballot and takes part in subsequent industrial action could be intimidated not to go back to work if the union decides to reject a better pay offer.

Mr Fowler's arguments are unlikely to convince the trade unions who have consistently argued against the proposals

Mr Patrick Moore, the astronomer and television personality, adds his artistic touch to a child's drawing on a special London Underground train ride yesterday, organized to launch Children's Book Week (Photograph: Deazil McNeelance).

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## Government digs in despite attacks on new rules

## Fowler to push union reforms

By Roland Ridd

The Government yesterday made it clear that it will not negotiate on its planned legislation preventing unions from disciplining members who ignore strikes for which there has been a majority ballot.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Institute of Economic Affairs that the legislation, strongly condemned by the trade unions and the Confederation of British Industry, would go before Parliament by next October.

The clause has been bitterly attacked by trade union leaders as a "scabs charter" which will lead to the "most repres-

sive anti-trade union laws in Europe". The Confederation of British Industry has also criticized it for undermining the secret ballot.

In an important speech to the institute, Mr Fowler rejected the union allegations and said that past evidence had shown that the Government could ensure that trade unions would uphold democratic standards and practices only through legislation for trade union reform.

"Criticism that we were legislating in a way which would undermine good industrial relations, provoke confrontations, or produce unworkable and ineffective laws, have proved consistently unfounded. Our approach has

been endorsed by the public - including very many trade union members", he said.

The Green Paper quotes numerous examples of what the Government believes are "irresponsible or unjust" trade union methods in seeking to evade or ignore statutory requirements. To counter this, further legislation will limit what Mr Fowler said was "the possibility of unions coercing employees, by threats of disciplinary action, to strike in circumstances where they would wish to honour their employment contracts."

The Secretary of State made it clear that although he would have preferred to get the unions to agree on further reforms the controversial

clause was "a point of principle" which the Government could not concede. The individual union member had an obligation to his employer which was "too important to allow it to be influenced by the threat of union discipline."

The Government is concerned that under the present law a union member who votes in a strike ballot and takes part in subsequent industrial action could be intimidated not to go back to work if the union decides to reject a better pay offer.

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## Ministers fight with Treasury over £3bn

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

The "Star Chamber" of senior Cabinet ministers is certain to intervene to adjudicate between the Treasury and spending departments on next year's public expenditure total, government sources said yesterday.

The total difference between what the departments want to spend and what the Treasury wants to allocate is believed to be around £3 billion.

Spending ministers have been arguing that government revenues are so buoyant that the original target can be breached. However the Treasury is fighting a fierce rearguard action.

Talks between Mr John Major, chief secretary to the Treasury, and individual ministers are due to end this week with the gap between departmental bids and the Treasury's planned ceiling of £154 billion still too great for the Treasury to accept.

Departments thought to be still at loggerheads with the Treasury include Health and Social Services, Environment, Defence and Education.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has said that while the Government is committed only to reducing expenditure as a proportion of national income - which in the present favourable circumstances would allow a considerable overshoot on the £154 billion target - he is determined to get as close as possible to that target. Maintaining a tough line was critical in reducing taxation.

The "Star Chamber", chaired by Lord Whitelaw, would complete its work in time for the Chancellor's autumn statement in November.

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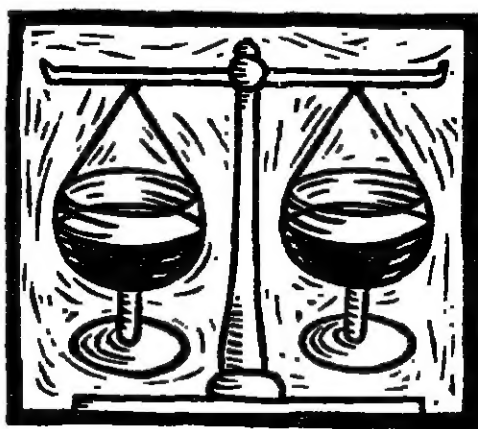
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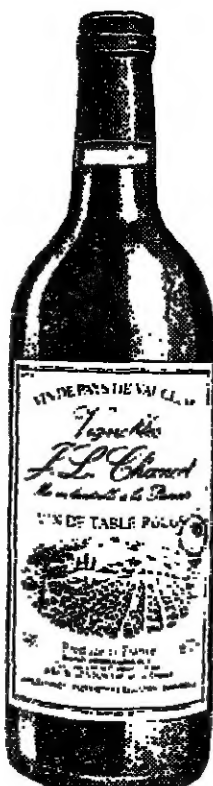
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Health cash plea, page 7

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## IRA alert Boyson security tightened

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives have mounted a special protection operation for Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Northern Ireland minister, after a British police intelligence operation revealed the Provisional IRA may have targeted him for assassination.

Documents uncovered by police and linked to the IRA include the registration number of Lady Boyson's car. Police believe an IRA reconnaissance team collected personal information on the Boysons to prepare an attack by an active service unit.

Sir Rhodes was Minister of State in Northern Ireland

from 1984-86, and is still MP for Brent North. Many former Northern Ireland ministers retain police protection after their retirement, but Sir Rhodes asked for Special Branch protection to be relaxed when he left office.

In recent weeks, security has been tightened. Sir Rhodes is reported to have rescheduled his engagements and been given the use of a specially protected Daimler car.

Yesterday a marked police car was parked outside the five-bedroom family home. According to a neighbour, police are stopping anyone approaching the Boysons' home, including milkmen and postmen.

Security has also been tightened for a number of other political figures and senior ministers as the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool approaches next week.

Police have taken the view that the IRA might mount an attack on a politician away from the conference, believing that police attention will be focused on Blackpool.

Last week Devon and Cornwall police gave added protection to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, when he visited Torquay.

## Full review sought on sentencing

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A royal commission to review the whole sentencing system is recommended by the Criminal Bar Association in a submission to the Home Secretary.

The association is strongly opposing government proposals in the Criminal Justice Bill to give the prosecution the right of appeal against over-lenient sentences.

"Tinkering in response to political pressure is no substitute for a proper review of the whole system."

It described the proposal, which has the support of a number of law lords and of the Lord Chief Justice, as merely "a means of taking the heat off the judiciary when there is a public outcry about a sentence."

The present sentencing framework was at fault. It was "unpredictable, complicated and ill-understood, not only by criminals, but often by their lawyers."

In a second submission, the

association also rejected proposals to abolish the suspect's right to silence.

Backing for a royal commission on sentencing also came yesterday from the Law Magazine. Its latest issue describes the system as a "mess."

"What is needed is not just another layer of inadequately considered law to deal with whatever issue happens to be flavour of the month, but a thorough overhaul, starting from basic principles."

## Hunt for youngsters to revitalize inner cities

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

A further 6,000 young entrepreneurs are being sought to revitalize run-down inner city areas.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, yesterday announced an expansion of Headstart, the scheme run by the Industrial Society to find and utilize promising talent in unemployment blackspots.

Task forces will go into Handsworth, Birmingham; Moss Side, Manchester; Spitalfields, London; and Hartlepool, Cleveland. They will advise and train young people how to start a business. More than 200 firms are helping by sending advisers to schools.

The scheme already operates in parts of Leeds, Middlesbrough, Leicester, Bristol, and north Peckham and north Kensington in London.

Mr Clarke said the Government would give more than £500,000 to run the expanded scheme, which has already helped 75 young entrepreneurs and advised 4,000 teenagers in inner city schools how to turn their ideas to commercial advantage.

"Our main aim in inner city areas must be to inject the enterprise culture into those areas and help young people learn at first hand about the modern world of work," said Mr Clarke.

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# £80m to be spent on brighter and faster Post Offices

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

The Post Office yesterday announced an £80 million, five-year investment programme to modernize its high street shops.

Out will go slow service, grubby vinyl floors, and poor lighting; in will come new "express-service" windows, wall-to-wall carpeting, modern decor, electronic dispensing machines and integral shops selling stationery and greetings cards. Post office staff are to be offered a newly-designed, free uniform.

Up to 1,500 extra part-time staff are being recruited in the coming year to cope with busy periods at hunchtimes or on pension days.

In what is certain to be seen as the first step towards making the counters business a more attractive candidate for privatization, up to 500 crown post offices are to be refurbished in the style of private sector banking halls.

The "express-service" windows are expected to reduce queuing at main post offices to an average of five minutes. A survey of customers has shown that most felt a wait of up to five minutes was acceptable.

Behind the investment, which will not require additional government funding, is a drive to convince ministers that the Post Office should be allowed to sell products other than those directly related to the mail service or in the

beginning of the Post Office's £100 million automation programme - said to be Europe's biggest computerization project - which eventually will involve 6,000 offices. Initially, 250 offices will be equipped with counter terminals linked to computers, aimed at improving the service and saving time.

The number of post shops is to increase from 38 to 50 as part of a plan to turn post offices into "a distinct and dedicated business, with improved services and environment independent of the Royal Mail". Mr Roberts said.

The Post Office has 1,500 main offices and 19,000 sub-post offices catering for 25 million customers a week.

The Post Office Users' National Council (POUNC) yesterday welcomed the investment plan.

Mr Brendan Doyle, assistant secretary, said POUNC did not believe that privatization was necessarily in mind; modernisation of the counters business image was necessary to prepare it for entry into more competitive ventures with the private sector.

Mr Doyle said the council would monitor queuing at post offices to see whether a reduction took place.

"Complaints about queuing are top of the list we receive from the public; it is very frustrating to go to a post office in your lunch hour and find only two out of 10 counter windows open."

In parallel with the counters investment scheme is the

public domain such as pensions and car licences.

Mr John Roberts, managing director of the counters business, said that it is hoped that with its new modern image, the counters business can enter joint ventures with the private sector selling financial services such as insurance.

Last year the counter operation made a loss of £10.7 million. After receiving various interest payments, there was a trading profit of £19.1 million.

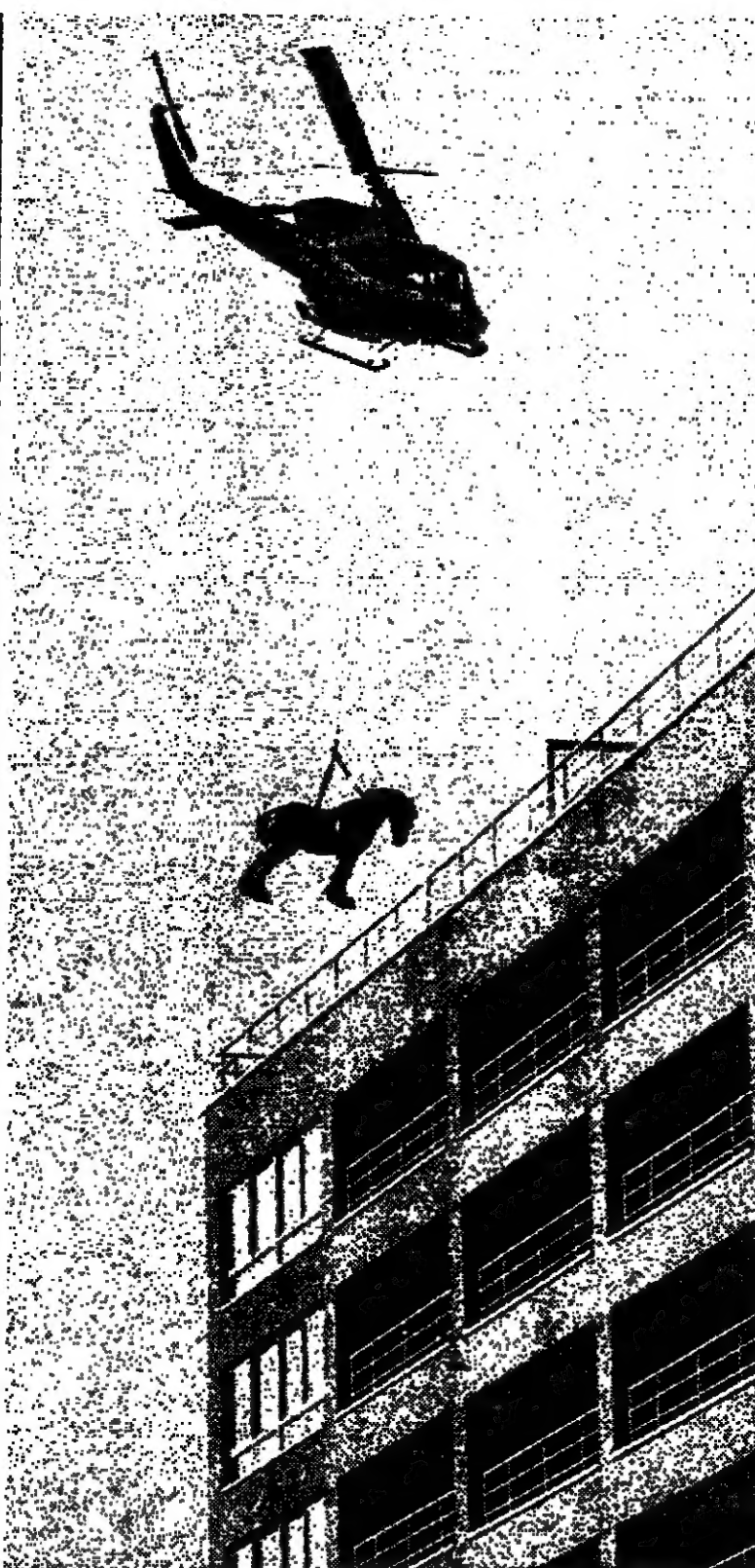
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The horse, slung beneath a helicopter, is flown to Queen Elizabeth Street

## Flying horse given a lift into London

The Thames has seen many strange sights in its long history, but few more startling than the nine feet high bronze shire horse that flew up the river from the Isle of Dogs to Tower Bridge yesterday.

The one-ton statue, slung underneath a helicopter, was being airlifted in to take up position in the middle of a new residential development in Queen Elizabeth Street, Bermondsey, south-east London, close to where the former Courage brewery once used real shire horses to pull its drays.

The horse was modelled for a property company by Shirley Pace, an equestrian sculptor from Chichester, West Sussex.



Final positioning for the horse on its plinth

## Aids cases blamed on blood cash crisis

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

More than 1,000 haemophiliacs would not be infected with the Aids virus if more money had been spent on the blood transfusion service, according to a specialist.

In a letter to today's *British Medical Journal*, Dr James Ross, a consultant haematologist at Northampton General Hospital, says spending on the transfusion service in Scotland in 1984-85 was £2.42 per head, compared with £1 per head in England.

"I am certain that if spending on the service in England were at the Scottish level we would have a better service."

"We would not have the tragedy of 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with the human immunodeficiency virus." At least 57 haemophiliacs have contracted Aids and 41 have died. Dr Ross says almost all those infected caught the virus from the clotting agent, Factor VIII.

In another letter to the *BMJ*, Mr Pire Anderson, surgical registrar at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, says that when three patients recently needed transfusions, he was told there was no more O Positive blood in the whole South-west Thames Health Region.

One patient died and another was given blood intended for a woman aged 80 who lived only because she stopped bleeding spontaneously. Mr Anderson says this "scandalous" situation is "a not too infrequent occurrence in hospitals".

Mr Bill Taylor, regional director of operational services, said: "There have been occasional problems because the supply of blood from donors in our region has been inadequate."

Deadly factor, page 14

## The church and state education

### Bishop lashes out at reform

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Church of England has joined the national chorus of opposition to the Government's proposals for reforming state schools.

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, yesterday published an open letter to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, accusing the Government of using the educational system as a political pawn in its efforts to weaken local government.

In a separate statement yesterday, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was also critical of government proposals for the national curriculum in schools, which he said would "reduce religious and moral education to compete with other minority subjects".

Education had to be "for life, love, and responsibility" and "Catholics maintain that the fundamental issue of education is, in practice, being neglected."

Dr Leonard, chairman of the Church of England's board of education, also condemned

the motivation behind the reforms as "essentially utilitarian and materialistic".

He wrote: "This narrow focus limits the thinking underlying the proposals in a way which has very practical consequences. Until present levels of unemployment are significantly reduced, many pupils will feel little interest in a curriculum which is identified as being geared to 'the challenges of employment', particularly if those are identified as being mainly to do with technological expertise."

Dr Leonard said some of the Government's plans were likely to increase disparities between schools. He said the proposal to allow schools to opt out of local authority control would create a privileged sector.

"The untrammelled operation of market forces is not appropriate to the provision of public good. Creeping privatization of the education system is no more acceptable than would be the outright handing over of all schools to commercial enterprises."

The proposals "seem to have been born of a spirit of desperation, almost as if people were saying anything different from the present system must be better", Dr Leonard said.

Comments on the Government's proposals have been received from more than 2,000 organizations, and individuals.

The two head teachers' organizations were among the last to respond. The Secondary Heads' Association said it was strongly opposed to the "unduly prescriptive" nature of the proposed national curriculum, to the "whole paraphernalia" of introducing national tests at the ages of seven, 11 and 14, and to the plan to allow schools to opt out of local government control.

The National Association of Head Teachers criticized the plan to allow schools to recruit up to their physical capacity, saying market forces would make it difficult for local authorities to manage numbers economically.

## Dyslexic children lack help

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Ten years after dyslexia was formally recognized as a medical problem, there is still only one specially trained teacher for every 10 children who urgently need one-to-one coaching to overcome the handicap, the British Dyslexia Association says.

Mr Tony Davies, chairman of the association, said yesterday: "Britain is still arguing about whether dyslexia exists. There are still local education authorities where the disease is not recognized as such."

Consequently, only a third of the 300,000 children believed to suffer from dyslexia - word-blindness - are receiving trained help and Britain has just 3,000 teachers who can help them, many of them in private schools to which local authorities pay fees.

A £1.5 million campaign is being launched this month to provide courses for 1,500 state school teachers and short

"awareness" courses for a further 5,000 who want to know how to recognize a dyslexic in the classroom.

However, said Mr Davies, these courses were mostly to be offered by the private sector. "Even now, the independent sector is having to give the lead in providing special help for dyslexics, although 4 per cent of schoolchildren, and one in 10 of the population, are estimated to have the problem," he said. The Government officially recognized it as a handicap but local authority provision for special teaching was at best patchy.

The British Dyslexia Association and the Dyslexia Education Trust have joined forces with other bodies such as the Dyslexia Institute, which has 20 regional centres, to provide more training for teachers, and more awareness of the "hidden handicap".

Barclays Bank has funded a

three-week mobile information service based on the Dyslexia Institute's bus. On Monday week Susan Hampshire, the actress, who is dyslexic, will present prizes for essays, poems and posters by dyslexic children. At the end of the month there is a £100-a-ticket ball at the Café Royal.

The campaign has the slogan Dyslexia Destroys, to highlight awareness of the disease's ability to ruin lives. Dr Gerald Haies, an educational psychologist and former chairman of the British Dyslexia Association research committee, said: "Dyslexia is a destructive disease. Dyslexics do not sit ticking over in neutral until someone is found to help them. Their problem deepens all the time."

"I have seen children of eight who have not been diagnosed as dyslexic and they have simply decided that they must be insane. The psychological damage is enormous. It can, and does, end in suicide."

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## £4,500 false arrest award for woman

A woman who was detained for 3 1/2 hours for questioning by police has been awarded £4,500 for false imprisonment by a jury at Guildford County Court (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Mrs Anna Castorina, aged 44, of Warrington, Surrey, worked for a market research company in Oxted, Surrey, until June 1983, when she was dismissed.

Shortly afterwards there was a break-in at the company's premises and on hearing that Mrs Castorina had recently been dismissed, police went to her house and arrested her.

After questioning she was released without charge.

She sued for false imprisonment and on Wednesday a jury at Guildford County Court made the award against the chief constable of Surrey. He is considering an appeal.

## Child specialist at risk as caseload increases

By Ian Smith

Colleagues of Dr Jane Wynne, the child abuse specialist, fear she will not be able to cope if her workload is not significantly reduced.

Dr Wynne, a community paediatrician based at Leeds General Infirmary, says she can no longer cope with handicapped patients because she is inundated with child abuse referrals.

Only this week, the doctor won the 1987 Meering Award, presented by the National Association of Nursing and Family Care, for her work with handicapped children.

But, reluctantly, she has had to cancel 30 follow-up appointments for handicapped children and paediatricians have been instructed not to refer any more.

In spite of appeals from Dr Wynne and a parents' action group, Leeds Western Health

Authority has not appointed a second paediatrician.

At its monthly meeting in three weeks' time, the health authority will consider a request for an extra paediatrician made by the Leeds Western Area Community Health Council.

Mrs Sylvia Craven, secretary to the council, said yesterday that the situation for Dr Wynne was becoming impossible. Her caseload was far greater than could be handled by any one person.

"The concern she expresses and I share is that these handicapped youngsters who urgently need help will be ignored because no expert is on hand in the community."

Dr Wynne has said that unless a second specialist is appointed she will seek the help of the Medical Defence Union.



# Defence policy change would be 'hypocrisy'

Any thought by the Labour leadership of dropping the party's non-nuclear defence policy would be "hypocrisy at its worst" and a betrayal, Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, said to loud applause during the defence debate.

Paraphrasing a remark made by Mr Ken Livingstone at a Brighton fringe meeting on Wednesday, he said that such a change of policy would produce "internecine warfare" in the party.

Mr Livingstone's speech came under attack at the end of the debate from Mr Tony Clarke, who was replying for the national executive committee. Although he did not mention Mr Livingstone by name, Mr Clarke condemned him for jumping on to bandwagons and described the Wednesday speech as immature.

The conference carried on a show of hands motions backing the non-nuclear defence policy of the party.

Opening the debate, Mr Michael Chivers, Tass staff editor, moved a motion reaffirming Labour's commitment to a non-nuclear defence policy and commitment to membership of NATO.

He said that it was time to bring the crucial issue to the place where it belonged, to be settled by the party's policy-making body, the conference.

A later motion calling for a referendum on nuclear defence was a mischievous ploy by those who wanted to fly in the face of world opinion and hinder the disarmament process. The conference should join the TUC in rejecting the joint tactics of the cold-war warriors.

The Pentagon's British agent, Mrs Thatcher, had made a personal pledge that the British would never give up the British independent nuclear deterrent. "She is fast becoming the world's biggest obstacle to nuclear disarmament."

It was also necessary to realize that NATO would remain in place especially under a Tory government. A non-nuclear policy would only be secured when NATO and the Warsaw Pact were dismantled.

Mr Derek McNerney, Chelsea, said that it was necessary to review defence policy, but not to abandon it to give sharper, more radical cutting edge.

They should reaffirm the non-nuclear policy and not listen to the counsel of despair of those who would urge a referendum on taking office, thus abandoning the Labour government's responsibility.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary, EETPU, moved a

motion recognizing that Labour had been unable to persuade the people of the merits of unilateral nuclear disarmament. It called for a referendum on the matter within a year of taking office.

Shouts of "Scab" had greeted him when he walked to the rostrum.

His union had never hidden its view on defence, he said, supporting Britain's continuing membership of NATO and was against any policy which undermined that primary requirement.

"We see it as inconsistent to shelter under the umbrella of an organization based on a nuclear deterrent, while refusing to make it effective. We cannot pick and choose responsibilities to NATO."

"We are in or out. Some have

the £2,000 million that such a policy would save each year.

It had not been a question of the policy being right or wrong at the general election; the only vote loser had been a lack of conviction and belief.

Mr Martin Smith, Brighton, Kempton, proposed a further motion that pledged to take Britain out of NATO and remove all American bases, including nuclear, conventional and communications bases, from British soil. He advocated opposition to the motions proposed by EETPU and Bootle.

Those who did not learn from their mistakes were doomed to repeat them and the party had to learn from the lessons of the election. It had not been unilateralism which had lost votes, but the confused way the leadership had put the policy forward.

Miss Bernadette Hillan, Lancashire West, proposed a motion reaffirming the party's policies on non-nuclear defence and nuclear disarmament and called for removal from British soil of all nuclear weapons and nuclear bases within the lifetime of the next Labour government. It also proposed the strengthening of the United Nations peacekeeping role.

Mr Ron Hazard, Orpington, seconded, said that when one of superpowers was calling for the worldwide elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000 then nuclear disarmament was an idea whose time had come. If the Labour policy on such a strategy had been misunderstood perhaps it had been due to the absence of a high-profile campaign.

The new campaign for the next election should start now. If there was a rethink on policy it should be about the way to present the campaign.

Mr Arthur Scargill, National Union of Mineworkers, said that there had been media speculation that the party was about to change its policy or direction on defence and about to change its position as far as unilateral nuclear disarmament was concerned.

Any such thoughts in the minds of those on the conference platform, would represent a betrayal at its worst and a betrayal of all the policies they had fought for for the last 25 years (applause).

A change of policy would produce internecine warfare and put party members in conflict with each other over the next four years when they should be fighting Mrs Thatcher.

"We have fought too long and too hard to get rid of nuclear weapons to start considering changes of policy at this stage."

They had heard speeches, such as those from the EETPU, which were like ghosts from the past. They did not want a referendum on an issue such as

life and death. They wanted unilateral nuclear disarmament (applause).

The fact that talks were taking place between the Russia and the USA was because of, not in spite of, the brave women of Greenham Common (applause).

The policy of the party was clear. They wanted to abolish all nuclear weapons, all US bases, abandon all weapons of war. And when they got rid of nuclear weapons, they did not want the money translated into conventional weapons but into hospitals, schools and welfare (applause).

Mr Denis Healey, MP for Leeds East, said that their last election defeat had been a catastrophe for Britain and a tragedy for the world.

In the next four years the Government would spend nearly all the money that had to be spent on the Trident programme.

"You need not waste time arguing about whether the savings from Trident go on conventional weapons or to social services. There will not be any because Mrs Thatcher is in power now."

Trident was not a deterrent but a recipe for permanent and humiliating dependence.

Embarking on their review, they could not hang a No Disturb notice on this part of policy.

A worldwide coalition was growing in favour of getting rid of nuclear weapons, a non-nuclear NATO strategy and only a British conventional contribution to defence.

Their socialist colleagues in Europe believed that the only conceivable role for nuclear weapons was to deter their use by someone else. "Until we get international nuclear disarmament, they think that road is essential. In that sense, they believe in the nuclear umbrella."

"Unless we take their view seriously we will cut ourselves off from all our natural allies."

Miss Joan Ruddock, MP for Lewisham, Deptford, and former chairman of CND, said that the threatened use of nuclear weapons was incompatible with the fundamental issues of freedom, justice and democracy that the party stood for. They had to reaffirm their non-nuclear defence policy.

During the election they had promised that money saved from scrapping Trident would be used for strengthening conventional arms. Today they knew that by 1991 that money would have been spent on Trident.

They also knew that Mr Gorbachev was willing to make reductions in conventional forces.

"We have in Neil Kinnock a leader not prepared to use nuclear weapons and we are rightly proud of that," she said to cheers.

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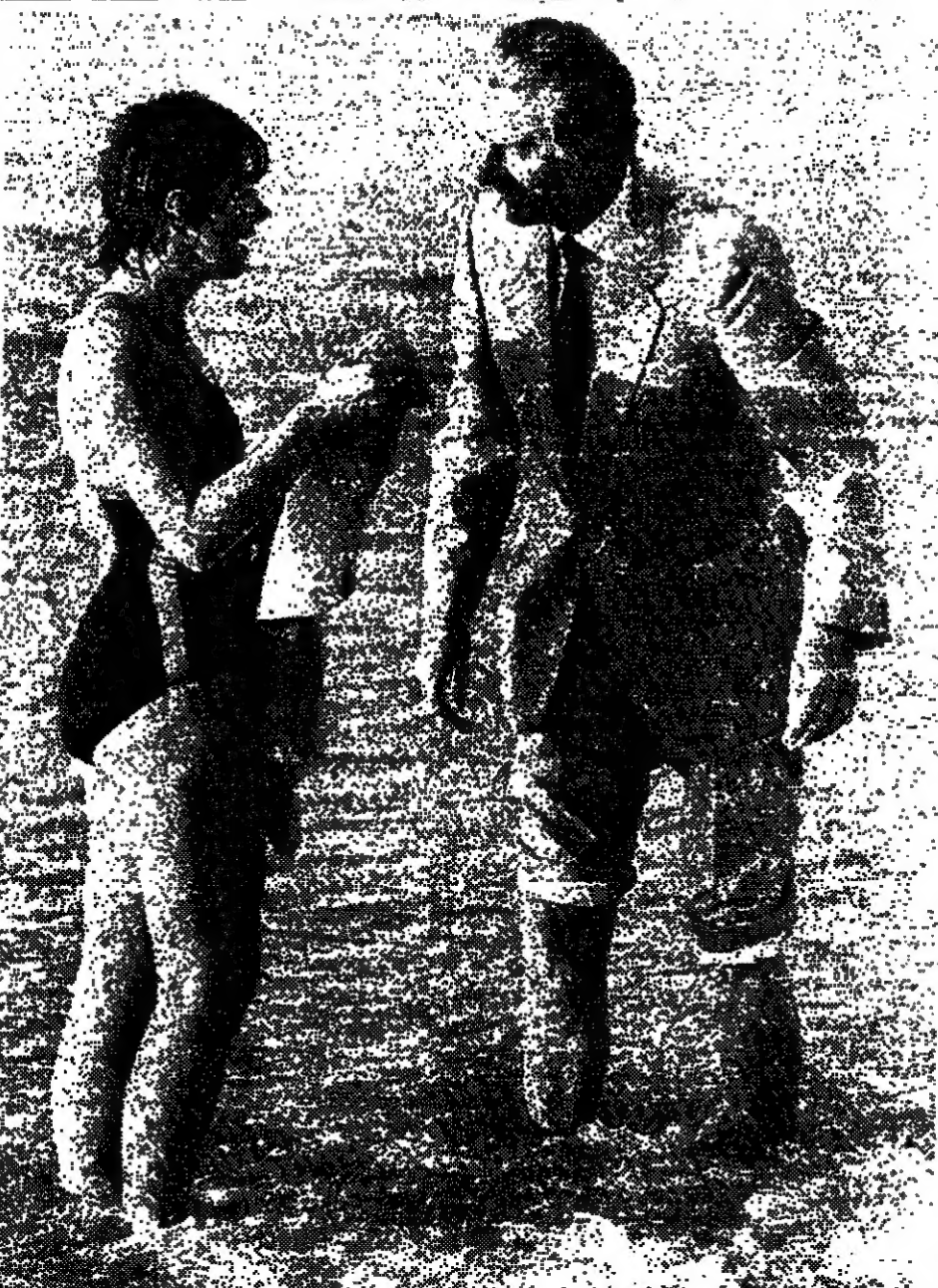
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"We have in Neil Kinnock a leader not prepared to use nuclear weapons and we are rightly proud of that," she said to cheers.



Miss Joan Walley, MP, being interviewed at Brighton yesterday by John Lander, Central TV's industrial correspondent (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Fury at Meacher attack on the minimum wage

Mr Michael Meacher, speaking for the national executive committee, provoked anger from delegates during the debate on the economy when he criticized a motion that called for an NEC policy for a national minimum wage, index-linked, of £120 a week.

There were cries of "shame" and "rubbish" as Mr Meacher, Opposition spokesman on employment, asked delegates to remit the motion on the ground that they were too far from the next election to fix a precise figure. His request was refused and the motion was overwhelmingly carried.

He was also jeered when he said that it was not practical to take back into public ownership

all the industries privatized since 1979. A motion calling for this was rejected.

Moving the motion on low pay, Miss Isabel Manley, Skipton, said that Mr Neil Kinnock's references to the man on £400 a week must have impressed the millions of people on low pay (applause).

"Before we try to convince Bryan Gould's so-called protectionist majority, let us be sure we can convince those forced to live on low pay and state benefits to vote for us" (applause).

Miss Carole Robertson, Sunderland, moving the second motion, said that every post-war Labour government had been

decided to office on a platform with a radical economic programme and had lost office when it had retreated from that.

Mr Meacher, replying to the debate, said that Labour's priority was to lay the foundations for a sustainable national growth for a sustainable personal prosperity.

That meant using the oil money for industrial reconstruction and a huge modernization programme of training and re-training.

The conference also passed a resolution calling for the review and updating of Labour's economic policies to ensure that an effective campaign could be mounted for the next election.

## Security services criticized

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

Mr Tam Dalyell suggested yesterday that the security services continued to act illegally and may have been involved during the miners' strike and the print dispute at Wapping.

Calling for an inquiry into the allegations made by Peter Wright in his book *Spies*, Mr Dalyell said that the main beneficiary of the security services' illegal activities to destabilize the Labour government of Harold Wilson had been Mrs Thatcher.

In an emergency statement to the party conference, he read a summary of parts of the book which had been secretly on sale outside the conference centre. Mr Dalyell said: "Are any of us in this conference so naive as to think that all this unlawful activity has ceased?"

The conference unanimously endorsed the NEC statement calling for an parliamentary inquiry and to establish procedures to subject the security services to democratic accountability.



Mr Blunkett: A reminder of the Peasants' Revolt.

## Party chiefs hint at revamped rates plus local income tax

By Nicholas Wood and Robert Morgan

Labour leaders floated the possibility yesterday of a local income tax to run alongside a revamped rating system as they pledged a big national campaign against the Government's proposals for a community charge.

Later, they said that the poll tax would lead to the downfall of the Thatcher Government and that inside and outside Parliament the party's energies would be directed to making the issue the central thrust of their opposition to the Conservatives.

They also issued a learned warning to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, reminding him that the last attempt to introduce a poll tax had led in 1381 to the Peasants' Revolt. The man who introduced it was hung, drawn and quartered.

Mr David Blunkett, chairman of the party's local government committee and MP for Sheffield Brightside, told reporters after a passionate debate that it was not a question of the Labour Party versus the Tories but of the people versus the Tories.

But moves by the left to get the party to commit itself to breaking the law in an attempt to frustrate the Government's plans were roundly rejected by the conference.

During the debate Mr Blunkett condemned a clause in a resolution which would have committed Labour to giving total support to council workers in defence of their living standards.

Labour's leaders acknowledged that their efforts to overturn the Government's proposals are handicapped by

the party's failure to put forward a clear alternative to the community charge.

The attempt to commit the party to unlawful action was led by Mr William Hamilton, a delegate from Glasgow Govan, who said:

"We want this legislation kicked out. The question is how do we force the Tories to do a U-turn? Recalling the rent strikes of 1915 that laid low Lloyd George's rent Act, he said that if it was necessary to break unjust laws, so be it."

The conference overwhelmingly endorsed a motion condemning the proposed community charge which, it said, violated every principle of fair taxation because it failed to take into account ability to pay.

It committed itself to campaigns at all levels of the party

against the tax and endorsed setting up a working party to thrash out Labour's alternative proposals to the present rating system.

Some workers are profiting from the privatization of council services by setting up their own companies to compete with existing contractors, a leading trade union leader admitted yesterday.

The candid disclosure to delegates came from Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, as he launched a savage attack on the Bill now at the committee stage in the Commons.

Delegates overwhelmingly backed a resolution condemning the Government's policies towards local government and calling for a national campaign against contracting out.

## Call for housing policy review

A plea for a complete review of all the party's housing policies through consultation with representatives of the public and private sectors, local authorities, tenant associations, the Labour Party and the trade unions received unanimous support.

Mr George Brown, Leamington, moving the resolution, said that houses built in the early 1950s to replace the slums were themselves becoming the slums of the 1980s.

That decline in the housing stock, particularly in council housing, had led to a crisis pointing to a clear need for a national plan to counter it. The Government's latest White Paper on housing did nothing to solve the problems.

Mr Chris Holmes, Hampstead and Highgate, successfully moved a further resolution supporting the right of public sector tenants to participate in all decisions affecting their homes and estates.

He said that lengthening housing lists and worsening homelessness were part of the scene in towns throughout Britain and Northern Ireland. Yet the word homelessness did not even appear in the 14-page White Paper.

Miss Jackie Field, Sheffield, seconded, said that there was a need for a campaign promoting alternative policies to Mrs Thatcher's right to buy, which would provide for all, owners or renters, a decent home of their choice.

Miss Brenda Burton, City of London and Westminster, successfully moved an emergency resolution condemning a decision by Westminster City Council to sell 9,000 council flats where there were 10,000 on the housing waiting list and 800 homeless families were being "deported" from the borough.

She said that represented Conservative inner-city policy in action.

Mr Clive Soley, shadow minister of housing, said that Government housing policy was bringing back the era of Roshomon and *Cool World*. He involved abandoning the objective of good housing for all at an affordable price and chose between owning or renting.

"What choice does a redundant miner in South Wales have when he can sell his home for about £5,000 and be cannot buy one in London for much less than £100,000?" he said.

Just how difficult it will be to change Labour defence policy was made abundantly clear in yesterday's debate. It was not just that resolutions were easily passed reaffirming the party's non-nuclear and unilateralist strategies.

The predominant tone in the debate, and even more the balance of applause, were unquestionably unilateralist.

Passion on this issue is still running strongly in the party and there will obviously be strong resistance to adjusting its stance for electoral reasons.

Yet the party leaders seem at last to be fully aware of the electoral consequences of not changing this of all policies.

Mr Hattersley disclosed on BBC Television's *This Week* that Labour's policy on Sunday that the party's strategy meeting ten days before the election in June that its defence policy was its greatest liability.

Mr Kinnock emphasised in his speech on Tuesday that the policy review that is now to be undertaken will spread across the whole field of our policies. He was sending a deliberate signal that defence would be included in the process.

The intention seems to be to use changing circumstances as a justification for amending the party's policy. So much, it is said, will be different by 1991.

But what changes affecting nuclear weapons can reasonably be expected by the next election? Most of the money on the Trident programme will have been spent by then.

So it would no longer make sense, as Mr Denis Healey pointed out in yesterday's debate, to promise to switch resources from that weapon to something else - whether conventional forces or social services.

A further disarmament agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union is also possible, going from an INF settlement to perhaps a 50 per cent cut in strategic arms.

These developments could logically justify a change of mind on the part of those whose objection to nuclear weapons is essentially tactical.

A further superpower agreement on nuclear weapons might well to my mind strengthen the case for a British deterrent. There might at such a time be growing anxiety that, in a mood of



Geoffrey Smith

euphoria with the Soviet Union, the United States was weakening its commitment to the defence of Western Europe. All the more reason in those circumstances for those European countries which have nuclear weapons to keep them.

I doubt if that is how most Labour members will see it. They would be far more likely to believe that the new good will justified their old unilateralism. But the critical problem for Mr Kinnock is that he would not be qualified to use either argument for

changing Labour's defence policy.

His objection to nuclear weapons has never been essentially tactical. "I would die for my country," he proclaimed to last year's conference. "But I would never allow my country to die for me."

The most reasonable interpretation of these words is that he regarded the possession of British nuclear weapons as jeopardising the fundamental security of the country.

If so, and Mr Kinnock gave every impression of holding this belief with passionate conviction, nothing would be changed either by the development of Trident or by further disarmament. If the possession of nuclear weapons really jeopardised British security there would still be no justification for having them.

Mr Kinnock seems therefore to be facing a terrible dilemma on defence. If he keeps a non-nuclear strategy, Labour will be stuck with a policy which the electorate is not prepared to accept.

But if he changes it he may be suspected of playing politics with the most critical of all issues for electoral purposes. That would hardly strengthen his standing as a potential Prime Minister.

## Internal dispute warning

By Our Political Correspondent

Government plans for another round of trade union legislation would undermine internal discipline and lead to harassment from dissenting minorities within the movement, Labour Party delegates were warned yesterday.

The measures outlined in the Government's Green Paper *Trade Unions and their Members* were described as yet another attempt to crush the movement.

Mr Eddie Haigh, for the NEC, said: "They are so blatantly vindictive. Having failed to crush the unions through curbs on bargaining and organization, they now plan to undermine the unions' internal discipline by putting legal weapons into the hands of dissenting minorities."

The conference overwhelmingly reaffirmed its commitment to repeal all anti-trade union legislation introduced since Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979.

It also voted for maximum union, organization of temporary and part-time workers.

## Reagan comes under fire

The British labour movement would never accept President Reagan's claim that Central America was his back yard, as if the people living there had no civil rights, Mr Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, said when he replied to a debate on the region.

He added that there was British collusion in American aggression causing death and destruction in Nicaragua.

There would be pressure in the general review of party policy for Britain to follow foreign policies less dominated by the United States and more non-aligned in character, to assist the development of peace.

They must never forget that millions of Americans were also opposed to the Reagan policies. He no more spoke for the real America than Mrs Thatcher did for the real Britain. They should pledge support for the people of Nicaragua.

A motion supporting the Nicaraguan revolution and calling on the British Government to withdraw training facilities for the Salvadoran army, was carried. It was moved by Mr Colin Wilson, Tass, who said that the isolation of the United States was now almost total.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester Gorton, and parliamentary spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that the Nicaraguan contras could not continue their operations without the continuing active support of Ronald Reagan.

The Americans had dismissed every Nicaraguan move towards implementation of the Guatemala accord. What did they want - blood? It seemed that they did.

Support for sanctions

A motion calling for a campaign, in co-operation with the Anti-Apartheid Movement, to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa and pending elections of a Labour government, to support "people's sanctions", received unanimous support.

Miss Barbara Switzer, Tass, proposing the motion, said that disinformation had been put out by the South African regime as being put forward by the British Foreign Office that sanctions did not work and that black leaders did not support them. Such propaganda was untrue and designed to confuse the public.

Mr Chand Chopra, Chipping Barnet, seconded, said that the South African regime was getting so desperate that it was torturing children as young as seven years old. That showed its true colour and moral bankruptcy.

Mr Tony Clarke, for the NEC, said that the time for rhetoric had gone, now it was time for action.

Environment versus profit

The Labour Party could not protect the environment without realizing that short-term private profit was being put before the interests of the whole planet and the long-term wellbeing of all its creatures. Mrs Audrey Wise, MP for Preston, said when she wound up the environment debate for the NEC.

She asked the conference to accept a motion outlining a comprehensive policy to reduce pollution in rivers and seas and to stop raw sewage disposal into them.

Mrs Wise said that sewage in the wrong place and in a raw state was a foul waste, while correctly treated and in the right place, it was a valuable asset.

Miss Sue Thomas, South Suffolk, moving the resolution, said that they needed an environment-free, employment-creating agriculture.

Mr Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Bootle, said that acid rain fell on the just and unjust but the trouble was that in Mrs Thatcher's Britain, the unjust had the just umbrellas.

The motion was carried.

Women in protest

The start of the afternoon session of the conference was delayed yesterday by women delegates crowding round the rostrum and refusing to disperse until the chairman agreed that they made a short statement.

They were protesting about a contradiction that had arisen over the presence of women on short lists for the selection of parliamentary candidates. The conference agreed earlier in the week that short lists should contain at least one woman, but also accepted that seats with a Labour MP, he or she could be a short list of one.

The statement was made, the women accepted an invitation to meet Miss Joyce Gould, the party's director of organization, and the conference then went on unimpeded.

Business today

In the final session of the conference this morning, delegates are due to debate motions on electoral reform, black members and legal reform.



# Family group urges Thatcher to fight social disorder risk

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Immediate action by the Government is needed to protect family life in order to avoid civil disorder on an "unprecedented scale", the National Campaign for the Family said yesterday.

The group, which had its official launch in London yesterday, called on the Prime Minister to take personal responsibility for family welfare and family policy. This should include scrutiny of all legislation and its potential impact on marriage and family life.

The campaign was initially formed in February last year, and is backed by the Salvation Army and the National Campaign for Law and Order.

The chairman of the campaign, Professor Richard Whitfield, said: "We would urge the Prime Minister to personally co-ordinate family policy in the same way as she has done for inner cities."

Professor Whitfield, emeritus professor of education at Aston University, said a permanent royal commission should be set up for marriage and the family, which would report regularly direct to Parliament.

The campaign, which wants to see changes in tax benefits

to support marital and family institutions, argues that family breakdown is the prime reason for social problems such as violence, crime, Aids and youth alienation.

Professor Whitfield said: "The situation is already extremely serious. England and Wales are top of the European divorce league with more than 150,000 couples divorcing every year, representing about 60 per cent of first time marriages."

"Every working day 900 children under 18 become victims of parental divorce."

One in five children was born out of wedlock and one family in seven is headed by a lone parent, double the proportion since 1966.

Juvenile crime and emotional problems among young children had increased and alcohol, solvent and other drug abuses were prevalent among juveniles.

"The common denominator in all of our most pressing social problems is the breakdown of sensitive, informed and committed family based care."

Professor Whitfield said politicians of all parties had only a generation to redirect policies. He said: "Com-

placency will only bequeath unmanageable social institutions and angry personal and civil disorder on an unprecedented and terrifying scale."

A book published by the campaign yesterday suggests action the Government could take to prevent further family breakdown. Miss Angela Ellis-Jones, a City analyst, calls for the introduction of a married person's allowance alongside other allowances in any future tax changes and higher child benefit for parents who are married or widowed. "The present tax system quite unfairly discriminates against married couples in favour of single cohabitants", she writes in the book.

Mr George Brown, a barrister, argues that the ability to have a divorce after only one year of marriage discourages people from working at relationships.

Professor Whitfield said proposals to reduce or tax child benefit would further undermine parenthood by implying that it had no economic value.

Families Matter - Towards a programme of action (The National Family Trust, c/o The Salvation Army, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP; £5.65).

# Award for brave rescue



Jeffrey Brocklehurst, aged 10, with the ambulance crew who rescued him from high voltage cables on top of a moving railway wagon, where he had climbed after hearing other boys call for help. Mr Desmond Foster, based at Stretford, Manchester, was yesterday presented with the Ambulance Service Institute award for exceptional personal bravery

while on duty, the first to receive it. The boy got a shock from overhead power lines and became entangled when the train moved off. His clothes were on fire. Mr Foster clambered on board and managed to free Jeffrey and throw him to a colleague. Surgeons fought for five weeks to save the boy (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

# Managers to strike at 400 public houses

By Craig Seton

Between 300 and 400 public houses across the Midlands are expected to be closed on Sunday because of strikes by their managers.

Mr Albert Carter, the Midlands organizer of the National Association of Licensed House Managers, said 400 of his members had voted by a two-to-one majority for industrial action over demands to cut their working week.

He said Mitchells and Butlers, the brewers, had refused his members' offer to go to arbitration.

A Mitchells and Butlers spokesman said 85 per cent of its 2,200 public houses would be unaffected by the strike. The company had undertaken to discuss working hours once the Government's proposals for relaxing licensing hours were known.

Ulster publicans are setting up a monitoring unit to study changes brought about by Sunday opening. As new licensing laws came into effect yesterday, the chairman of the Federation of the Retail Licensed Trade in Northern Ireland, Mr Gordon Harvey, said: "We do not think there will be an increase in alcoholism."

He expected Sunday opening - for the first time in 60 years - to result in a shift of drinking patterns, rather than an increase in consumption.

# Police are blamed for killing by Ryan

By Howard Foster

A second widow is to complain to Thames Valley Police that they directed her husband into the path of the mass killer, Michael Ryan, during the Hungerford shootings.

Mrs Marlyne Vardy claimed yesterday that police stopped her husband, Mr Eric Vardy, a van driver, from driving 50 yards to a safe area and he was diverted into danger. Mr Vardy, aged 51, died from a bullet wound in the neck.

The Police Complaints Authority has already received similar allegations from Mrs Elizabeth Playle, widow of Mr Ian Playle, a court clerk who was shot dead by Ryan after he was turned back at a police roadblock and tried to find another route.

Mrs Vardy, of Wantage Road, Great Shefford, Berkshire, waited until after the inquest on Ryan's victims in Hungerford before deciding on her action.

"Having sat through the four days of evidence...I feel that had the police acted differently my husband might still be alive", she said yesterday.

"When the roadblock was set up at the end of Park Street, Hungerford, the police knew there was an incident involving an armed man. I cannot understand why they did not stop and turn back all traffic going up the High Street in a southerly direction."

"At the inquest it was stated that there was not enough manpower to set up sufficient roadblocks. But the police had only to block the High Street just north of Park Street which would have required no more men than were used for blocking Park Street itself."

"I shall be making a written complaint to the Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Police and to the Police Complaints Authority."

A knowledge of Michael Ryan's mental state would have been of no use in predicting the "dreadful outcome" of his condition, a consultant psychiatrist says in *The Lancet* today.

The factors which separate the small minority of the mentally abnormal who commit violent crimes from those who do not, are unknown, Mr Simon Wessley says in a letter to the journal.

# Hume sets moral agenda

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The well-being of family life should be one of the central aims of social policy, Cardinal Basil Hume has declared in a wide-ranging statement setting out the moral agenda for the Roman Catholic Church's future relations with British society.

His statement was issued in London yesterday to mark the opening of an international synod of bishops in Rome, which he is attending. He said he expected many of the topics he was raising to be debated during the synod.

"The family is crucial", the cardinal stated. "It is an axiom of Catholic social teaching, as well as a matter of public recognition, that families are the basic units of society: what is bad for families is bad for society."

Many other bodies and individuals agreed with the Catholic Church in regarding "the good of family life and marriage as a central element in moral attitudes and perspectives."

The Government had to have a "coherent family policy".

In a passage which seemed to imply criticism of some aspects of Conservative Party thinking, he went on: "If full employment is at present, and possibly in the future, beyond what governments can achieve, it is all the more important that decent family housing, adequate family income and access to good standards of health and social services should be practically and immediately available to all."

That was not to be placed second to fostering a spirit of enterprise or rewarding initiative, but was equally important.

The lowering of sexual standards was also having a harmful impact on family life, and the advent of Aids had demonstrated that sexual immorality could affect the physical health and social structures of a whole society. A sense of responsibility to others, to society, spouses, and children should make it clear that such standards were not obsessive or out of date.

Mr David Alton's private member's Bill to lower the time limit for abortion should be energetically supported by all who cared about the future well-being of society, the cardinal said.

# Sir Thomas gets out of the firing line

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, yesterday cleared his desk and handed over an in-tray of problems to Mr Allan Green, QC, his successor as Director of Public Prosecutions.

The new crown prosecution service - exactly one year old yesterday - still has an acute staffing shortage and requires a massive recruitment drive.

A hard fight is looming with the Treasury for an increase in the service's £152 million budget; and there is a big public relations exercise to be done in selling the much-criticized service to the public.

But Sir Thomas, who is aged 62 and put off his retirement to see in the new service, is understandably not discontented with what he has achieved.

He had hoped for more people in post, but he estimates it will take five years to "get all the right people in place" so that there was not undue reliance on agents from the private profession.

Sir Thomas (Tony) held his post in the front-line of the criminal justice system for 10 years, during which it changed from being a small but key position to being head of a 3,000-strong national prosecuting service.

In his time he has had plenty of flak, has been accused of incompetence and faced calls to resign. Prosecutions before the courts in the past decade have included Jeremy Thorpe, the Yorkshire Ripper, Dr Leonard Arthur, Clive Ponting and the Cyprus servicemen - all but one of

which resulted in acquittals.

Until now he has been unable to speak out or comment. But this week he cast off his Civil Service neutrality and spoke on the issues facing the criminal justice system.

He favours abolition of the suspect's right to silence, and the defendant's right to challenge, a prosecution right of appeal against lenient sentences, and abolition of jury trials for fraud and commercial crime.

As a father and grandfather he would like video tape links used in child abuse cases and for taking evidence from abroad.

He supports random checks of jurors to stamp out jury nobbling, which had been a particular problem in London,

and a matter of concern for many years.

He does not regret bringing any of the controversial prosecutions, in spite of the acquittals, and would do the same again, given the evidence available at the time. But in one case - that of Dr Leonard Arthur, accused of murdering a Down's syndrome baby - he says he would not have charged murder had he had the medical evidence that came out in the trial.

In spite of being accused of incompetence and facing calls to resign he says: "The job has been fun; I enjoyed it and I shall miss it. I like to live dangerously, even if I am a canny Scot, and although I don't run up over the parapet unnecessarily, I don't mind being in the firing line."

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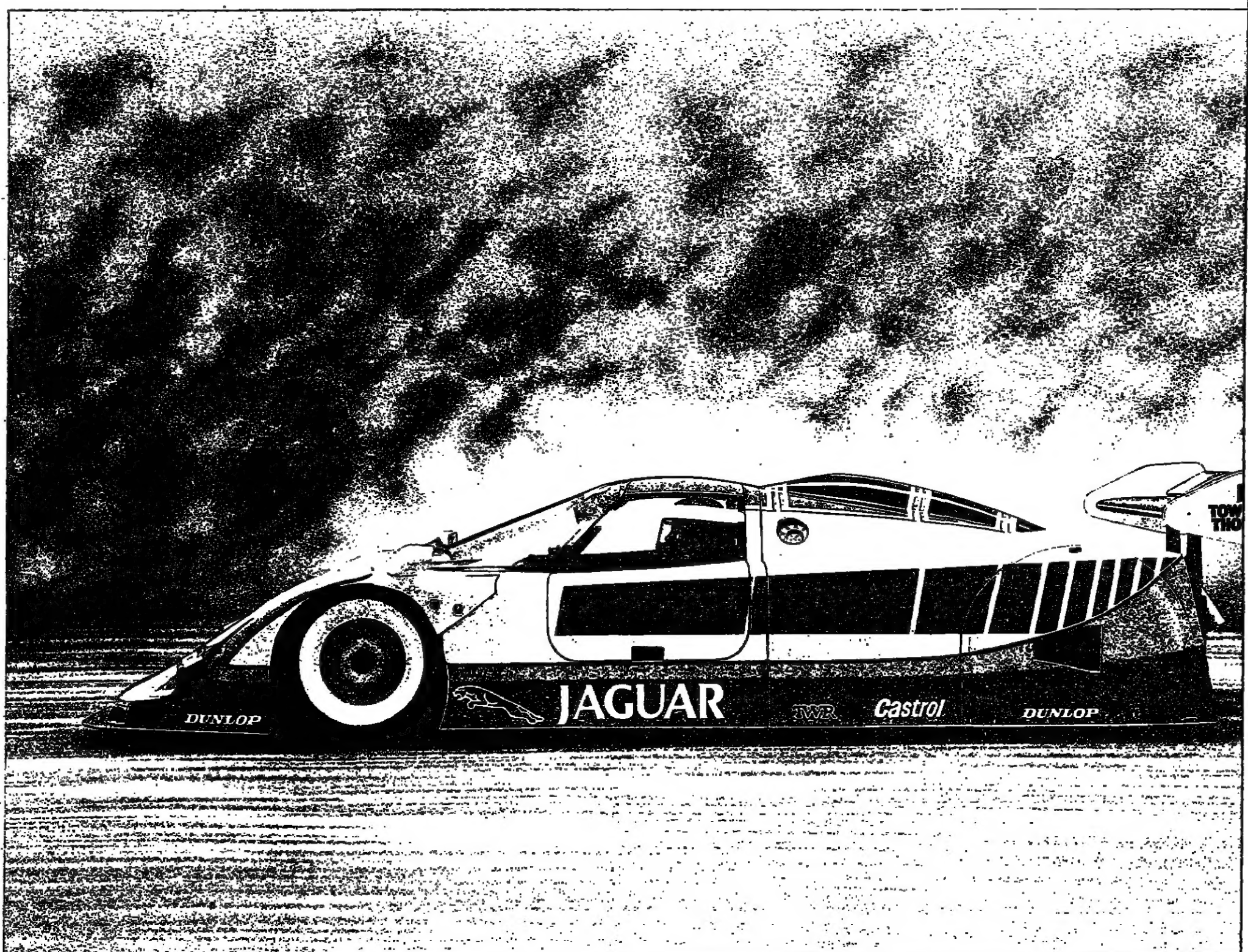
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# Health chiefs call for extra £935m to avert cuts

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities have called for an extra £935 million to be spent on hospital and community services next year to prevent further cuts in services, nearly double the amount allowed for the health service in this year's public expenditure White Paper.

In its autumn survey published yesterday, the National Association of Health Authorities says most authorities are facing severe financial difficulties, resulting in cancelled recruitment, recruitment freezes and other measures such as transferring capital to revenue.

All 106 health authorities, which responded to the NAHA survey said they were under extreme financial pressure because of underfunding of pay and price inflation, the rising costs of new technology treatments and pressure to increase the number of patients treated.

"It is essential that revenue cash limits are increased to enable health authorities to maintain services and press ahead with policy initiatives", the director of the association, Mr Philip Hunt, said yesterday.

Already 26 districts had cut services, 24 had reduced staff numbers and a further 26 had frozen staff recruitment.

The latest round of cuts has been condemned by health service unions and community health councils.

St Paul's Hospital in Liverpool, an important eye treatment centre, is to close a ward every weekend and over Christmas - in spite of lengthening waiting lists because its budget has been overspent by £55,000.

From December 12 to January 3 next year, only emergency surgery will be performed and one ward will close completely.

Hospital managers in Paddington and North Kensington in London are also drawing up a package of

service cuts to stave off over-expenditure of £3.2 million. The cuts could involve hospital and ward closures.

Service restrictions are being planned at the Royal Northern Hospital in Islington, north London, and at three hospitals run by the North-west Surrey Health Authority.

St Paul's Hospital, which performs 1,100 cataract operations a year, announced yesterday that it had exceeded its budget because it was using a more expensive technique called intra-ocular implants. This involves inserting a plastic lens into the eye so that the patient does not have to wear thick glasses.

Dr Henry Goldsmith, unit general manager, said the hospital had not been allocated extra money to fund the £130 operation. "Unless we can raise extra money through closing wards during less busy periods, we will not be able to carry out any more of these operations", he said.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees said the cuts could jeopardize the future of St Paul's Hospital and result in increased waiting lists. "I am appalled by this decision, especially when the Government claims it is trying to reduce waiting lists", one of the union's regional officers, Mr Bill Berry, said.

Dr Goldsmith denied there would be a significant increase in waiting lists. "The ward is two-thirds empty over the weekend and we will lose only eight working days over Christmas", he said.

Emergency proposals to cut services in Paddington and North Kensington, London, have also angered the local community health council. It said proposed cuts would affect patients, but not meet the £3.2 million overspend.

The Autumn Survey 1987, The financial position of district health authorities (NAHA, Garth House, 47 Edgware Road, London NW5 8RS, £3.50).

## Home lamb costs less this weekend

Home produced lamb prices are competitive this week, with most cuts down 3-4p a lb. The average price of whole leg is £1.62 a lb, whole shoulder, 94p a lb and joint chops, £1.93 a lb.

Although beef topside and silver-side is up slightly to an average of £2.19 a lb, there are good offers available on rump steak, brisket and braising steak. Stable pork prices make it a reliable weekend buy.

Some good meat and poultry offers at supermarkets this week are Sainsbury's rump steak at £1.98 a lb, whole fresh chicken up to 3½lbs in weight, 59p a lb and larger birds, 69p a lb. Presto rolled topside and silver-side, £1.88 a lb and New Zealand lamb chops, £1.28 a lb. Tesco home produced leg of lamb, £1.49 a lb and fresh whole roast chicken, 99p a lb.

Asda whole fresh chickens up to 3½ lbs are 58p a lb, and British lamb chops are £1.39 a lb. Bejam Sunbird chickens, 45p a lb and New Zealand lamb legs, 99p a lb.

There are excellent supplies of superb plaice at Billingsgate this week. On the bone it costs about £2.45 a lb, filleted between £2.45 and £2.85 depending on size.

Dover sole are so fresh that fishmongers suggest keeping them in the refrigerator for two to three days before eating. They are expensive, selling at about £5.75 a lb.

Whole farm salmon at about £2.40 for a small fish, and large sea reared rainbow trout at £2.60 a lb, are good value. Cod and codling are plentiful, but fractionally more expensive than last week. Whiting and coley are down 5-6p a lb and good herring landings make it a national best buy at 40p-£1.35 a lb.

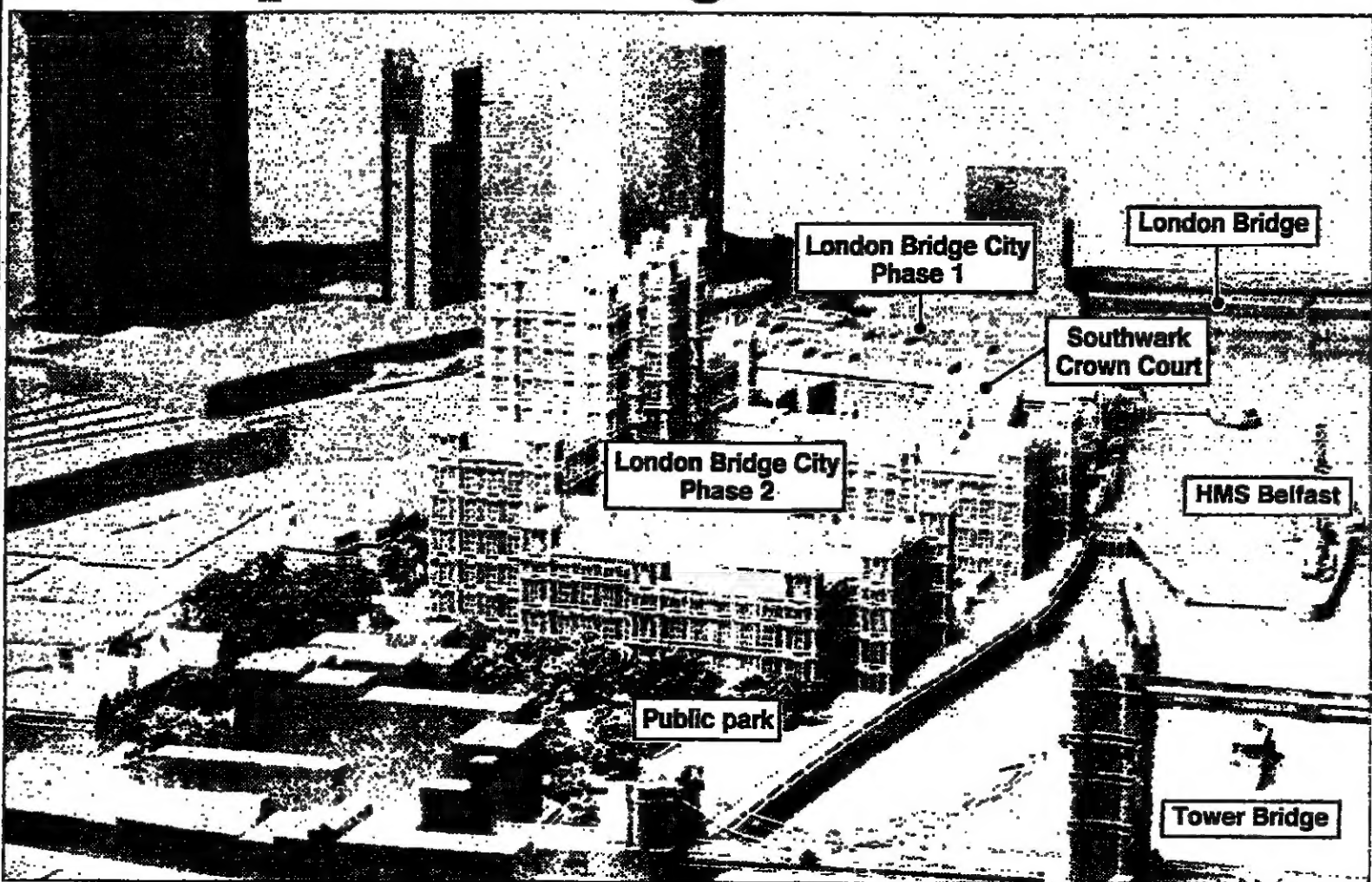
Spanish and Italian grapes cost between 50p and 80p a lb and the Thompson seedless variety from Greece, 60-80p a lb. English Cox's apples are 36-50p a lb. French Golden Delicious apples, 20-40p a lb.

Peaches, at 10-18p each, are past their best. English Marjory seedling plums are 35-45p a lb. Kiwi fruit are cheap from 12p each; avocados from South Africa, Mexico and Brazil are between 25p and 60p each, depending on size. Look out for the first pomegranates, at 20-30p each.

Cauliflowers are 30-50p each; courgettes, 40-60p a lb; sweetcorn, 12-25p each; mushrooms, 35-60p a lb; parsnips, 15-35p; carrots, 14-24p; Brussels sprouts, 25-40p a lb; and potatoes, 8-14p, are all good quality. Kent cobs are about £2.4 a lb.

Tomatoes are about 30p a lb; iceberg lettuce, 55-85p each; celery, 20-45p a head; Chinese leaves, 40-75p a head; and spring onions, 20-35p a bunch.

## Developer lowers sights on tower office



A model of the second phase of the London Bridge City project which has been reduced in height after suggestions by the Royal Fine Art Commission

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

A £200 million office development scheme for the south bank of the Thames, opposite the Tower of London and next to Tower Bridge, is to be submitted for planning permission this month.

The design has been modified to take into account comments by the Royal Fine Art Commission on the height of the block, which has been reduced from 300ft to 260ft, and on the elevational treatment of the ground and top floors.

The scheme, designed by

the American architects, John Borge & Philip Johnson, of New York, with D V Davies Associates, of Richmond, west London, as executive architects, is the second phase of the massive London Bridge City project by St Martins Property Corporation.

Tenants in the fully-let first phase, of one million square feet, are paying between £18 and £26 per square foot, less than half the going City rate.

The London Docklands Development Corporation has

already granted outline planning approval but detailed permission for the 1.5 million square feet of offices is by no means guaranteed when the corporation's planning committee meets on October 13.

The corporation is believed to have reservations about the scale of the building at the back, on Tooley Street, which is five-six storeys, the unusual double-height proportions of the windows, and the density of the development within its immediate urban context.

## Artists rescue gallery

A group of dealers and artists and collectors has raised enough money to save the art gallery at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith, west London, for a year. It faced closure after Hammersmith council cut its £50,000 grant (Our Art Market Correspondent writes).

It provides a public venue for young unknown artists and was saved mainly through the initiative of Mr Karsten Schubert, a dealer.

"I approached a number of

people in the art world, such as Lynne Cooke, the critic, Jacqueline de Botton, the collector and Bruce McLean the artist, and we all approached the rich people we knew", he said yesterday.

By August he had raised £30,000 from such artists as Anthony Caro, Richard Deacon and Anthony Gormley, and dealers including Nigel Greenwood and Anthony D'Offay.

## Curiosity draws the tourists to Ulster

By John Cooney

Nearly half of holidaymakers visiting Northern Ireland come to find out what life is like in a politically divided society, an opinion poll has disclosed.

The first extensive poll on tourism in the province shows that if people visiting primarily to see relatives are discounted, curiosity was the factor that attracted 23 per cent of holidaymakers last year.

Twelve per cent came to see the media portrayal of Northern Ireland as a strife-torn society was true and 9 per cent said they had an interest in politics and Irish history.

Mr Cathal Mullaghan, an executive with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, said: "Their preconceived idea was of a strife-torn way of life. But by the time they left they were pleasantly surprised by the perceived level of normality."

The poll showed that 35 per cent of the visitors were attracted by the countryside.

The most popular areas were the Antrim coast, the Giant's Causeway and Co Fermanagh. Golf and fishing facilities were of sufficient calibre to attract more single-minded sports tourists.

Mr Mullaghan said that visitors from the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe viewed Ireland, north and south, as a single tourist entity.

But holiday visitors from Britain tended to differentiate between the north and the south and tended not to visit both areas.

Sir John Swinson, chairman of the tourist board, predicted a 6 per cent increase this year on the 1986 total of 824,100 visitors.

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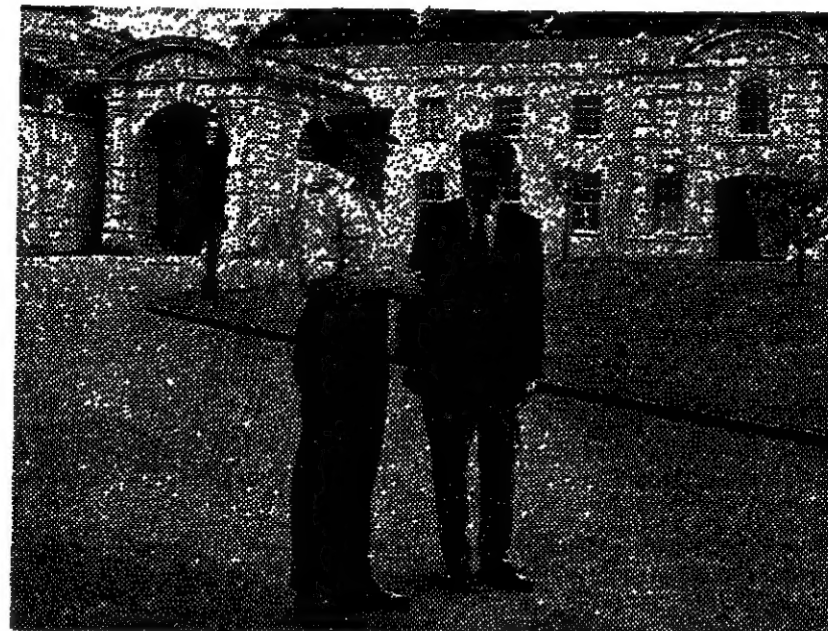
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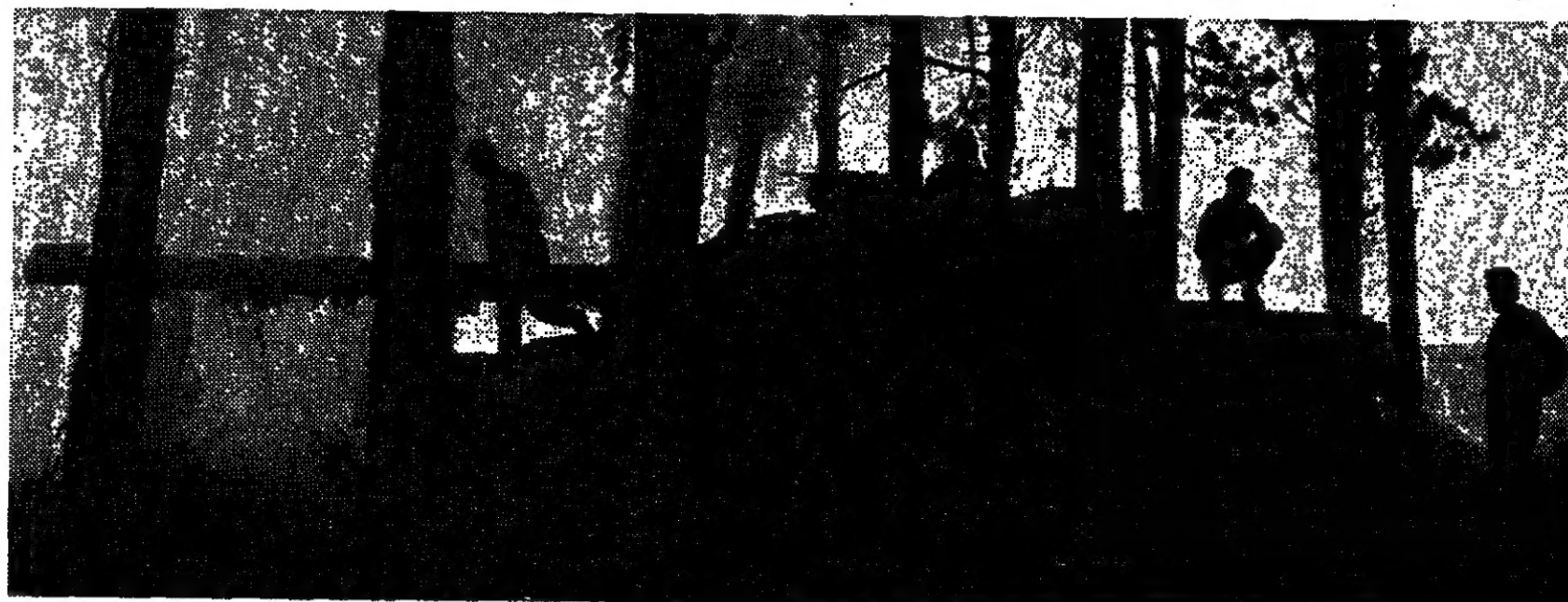


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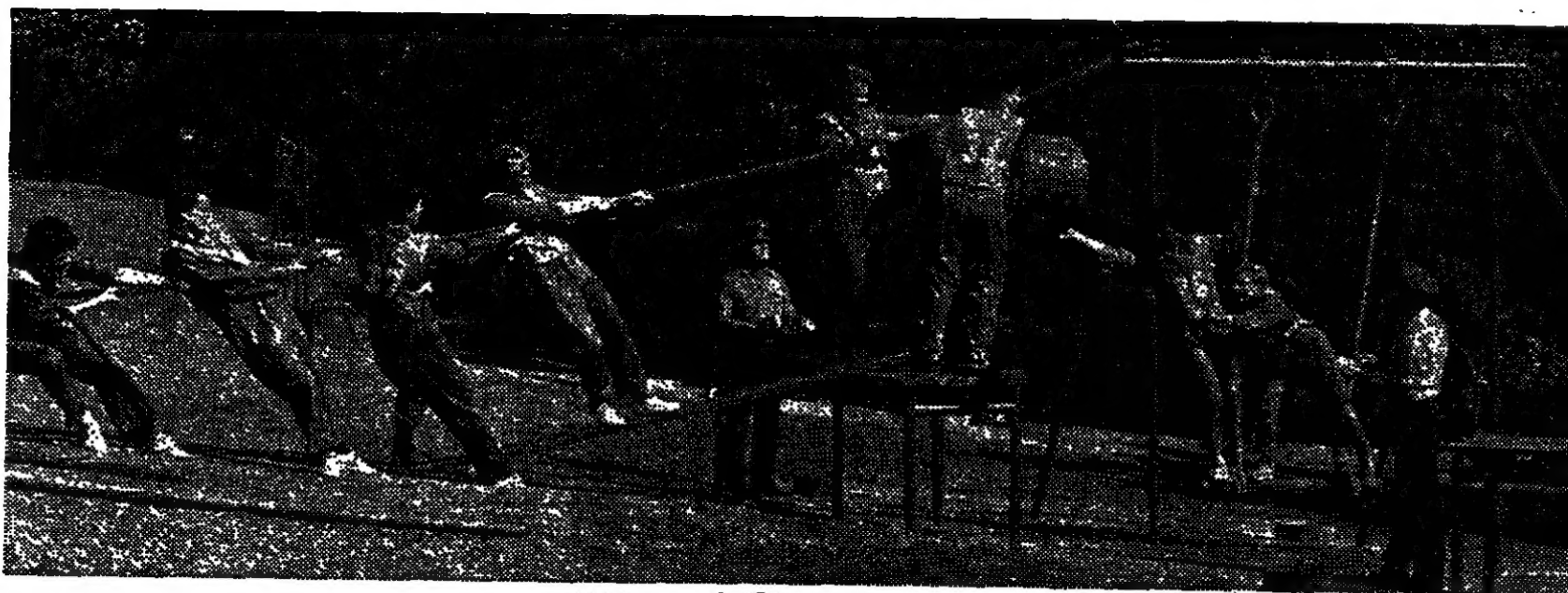
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WORLD SUMMARY

## Irishman claims he murdered 13

Athens — Mr James Godfried, aged 49, an Irishman being held on charges of strangling an American woman on the resort island of Mykonos, told police yesterday that he had killed a total of 13 women, including five in Greece this summer (A Correspondent writes). But Mr Godfried, from Ewell, Surrey, who was being questioned about the disappearance last month of a Greek woman on Mykonos, has refused to give any names.

Mr Godfried, released from prison in Britain on health grounds last year while serving a 14-year sentence for rape, admitted that he hit Nancy Lyn Connor with his car on September 18, and told police where to find her body.

Under heavy guard, Mr Godfried was taken yesterday by ferry to the island of Syros, the judicial centre for the Cyclades Islands. He is to appear before a public prosecutor today to be charged with the murder of Miss Connor.

## Pretoria's EEC cash jet denial crisis

Johannesburg — South Africa denied yesterday that one of its Air Force Mirage jets had been shot down over southern Angola, where Angola Government troops are reported to have launched an offensive to crush the UNITA rebel movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi (Ray Kennedy writes).

The South African Broadcasting Corporation said that the claim, made by Radio Angola, coincided with reports that UNITA was fleeing off the attack.

Two columns of South African troops, supported by armoured cars, were said to be fighting alongside UNITA forces in the Ngiva region of southern Angola and to have penetrated 125 miles to help UNITA against advancing government forces.

## Tension on glacier Boeing loses skin

Delhi — Border tension in the Siachen Glacier region of northern Kashmir, where Indian and Pakistani troops clashed last week, is still running high (Kuldip Nayar writes). India fears that Pakistan will launch an attack to avenge last week's defeat, in which Pakistan is reported to have lost 150 men.

● ISLAMABAD: Mr Naeem Mahmud, Pakistan's Defence Minister, told Parliament yesterday that Pakistani troops were capable of inflicting heavy casualties in defence of their position (Hasan Akhtar writes). He said Indian figures of casualties were preposterous.

## Swearing-in delayed

Washington — Judge William Sessions, left, the Texas conservative taken ill yesterday while flying to be sworn in as the fourth Director of the FBI, is in good spirits (Christopher Thomas writes). The swearing-in, which President Reagan was to have attended, has been delayed indefinitely. The Attorney General, Mr Edwin Meese, said after visiting him at George Washington University Hospital: "He is not gravely ill".

## Candidate for Christian right

## Evangelist joins White House race

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Rev Pat Robertson, the born-again Evangelist who headed a multi-million dollar Christian broadcasting network, yesterday formally announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination from the Brooklyn slum in New York where he lived 27 years ago.

Best known for his political hot-line to God, who he claims as his political adviser, Mr Robertson is counting on a surge of support from the Christian right. Once claiming to have changed through prayer, he sees his candidacy as a chance to rescue the country from moral drift.

In 1972, he insisted God had refused to give him the liberty to enter politics, though he said earlier this year he could be persuaded by the evidence of three million signatures. This he now has, and the Almighty has evidently given the go-ahead.

In recent months, Mr Robertson has cultivated a more secular image. He has resigned as a Baptist minister and no longer mentions his talks with God.

Though earlier scorned by his rivals, and temporarily set back by the scandals surrounding other Christian broadcasters, Mr Robertson has shown formidable organizing strengths. He recently defeated Vice-President Bush and Senator Robert Dole in an Iowa poll of Republican activists.

The 57-year-old Yale graduate has visited 48 countries and taken an increasingly outspoken stand on domestic issues. On a typical campaign day he rises at 5 am, reads the Bible and meditates for an hour, flies from his Virginia home to a morning campaign event, followed by a luncheon speech. He rests and lobbies on the telephone in the afternoon, attends evening rallies

and is home by 10.30 pm. ● Candidates' line-up: There are six Republican candidates — four of whom have now officially declared — and six Democrats.

The Republican candidates are: Vice-President George Bush, aged 63.

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, aged 64, Republican leader in the Senate since 1983.

## Fijian trust in tribal chiefs may help end crisis

From Stephen Taylor, Suva

Fijian traditions and the authority of tribal chiefs — rather than the rule of the gun — are emerging as the forces that will resolve the island nation's constitutional crisis.

The point was underlined by a prominent Fijian yesterday. Asked how a chief would traditionally have dealt with an unruly warrior, he said: "Well, he would have had him clubbed and put in a *lovo* (cooking pit). Then he would eat him."

The remark was only partly tongue-in-cheek. Cannibalism — commonplace during the constant fratricidal conflicts of the 19th century in Fiji — has long since disappeared. But the unquestioned

authority of chiefs who could order death with a word is still a primary social force.

In the present four-month-long trial of strength between duty and power, both sides have turned to traditional power bases. What makes the struggle intriguing, as well as tense, is that both sides are also asserting a cultural imperative.

On the one hand, the forces of duty, as represented by Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, the Governor-General, are banking on the imperative of paramountcy. There are four paramount chiefs in Fiji, including Ratu Ganilau, who cling to the links with the Crown, and resist the idea of Fiji becoming a republic.

On the other hand, minor chiefs within Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka's forces and the Taukei Movement assert that there is a higher imperative — the survival of Fijian culture, which is held to have been endangered by the 1970 Constitution.

In purely numerical terms it might be that in the Great Council of Chiefs, a majority would respond to the powerful emotional forces unleashed by the Taukei Movement.

The Taukei represents also a racist element which would be content to see the disappearance of commerce and the Indians, and a reversion to the club and the coconut.

Ratu Meli Vesikula, a senior Taukei official, articulates the break between the paramounts and minor chiefs. "We have always carried our chiefs with our heads down and uncomplaining. Now we are asking where it has taken us."

Considering the extent of the Fijian upheaval, the process has been remarkably free of violence so far, but a senior official in the Department of Fijian Affairs cautions: "You must remember, ours was a very violent society. Our rituals helped keep it under control — ceremonial drinking of *kava* and other communal practices. So does rugby. But the dark currents are still there."

Support for Colonel Rabuka's actions is found among the minor chiefs who number well over 160 and form a class of landowners.

But at a higher level, the picture is less clear. The 40 or 50 provincial chiefs tend to look for guidance to the four titled paramounts.

These are the *Univalu*, the *Tui Cakau*, the *Tui Nayau* and the *Roko Tui Dreketi*. There is some confusion about the position of the *Univalu*, Ratu George Cakobau, but the remaining three are implacably opposed to the republican option. They are, respectively, Ratu Ganilau himself, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, and Lady Mara.

## Younger in Paris talks

## Britain vows to keep up momentum over planned nuclear ties

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, now plans to meet his French counterpart on a regular basis to "keep up the momentum" of talks about forming closer nuclear links between Britain and France, British sources confirmed yesterday.

Mr Younger, who has already met M André Giraud, the French Defence Minister, for several private sessions this year, flew to Paris yesterday for a brief visit. His talks with M Giraud included "nuclear matters", the sources said.

Following the report in *The Times* yesterday, the Ministry of Defence sources in London confirmed that on the nuclear question there was "all to play for", including the possibility of linking nuclear submarine patrols, although that was "a long way off". They said that the relationship with the French was "growing and growing".

In Paris, after yesterday's meeting, French sources said that M Giraud wanted the discussions between Europe's two nuclear powers to be extended into a more concrete agreement on co-operation.

The sources said that he was looking for more frequent meetings, perhaps even once a month, to accelerate the process.

Mr Younger, who has developed a warm rapport with M Giraud, is known to be a keen supporter of closer ties between Britain and France over future nuclear strategy.

Yesterday Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of Moscow — The Soviet Union and the US appeared yesterday to be edging towards the first formal meeting between their defence ministers, (Reuter reports). Mr Denis Yassov reportedly invited his US counterpart, Mr Caspar Weinberger, to meet him in Geneva to discuss a possible US visit.

State for Defence, said he warmly welcomed any moves to forge closer nuclear ties with France.

"I'm sure there will be difficulties. But I can't see any political barrier or intellectual hurdle for having these exploratory talks," he said.

Mr Heseltine said that if there was any question of

Britain and France getting together to develop a joint deterrent for the period after the Trident system had run its course, it would be necessary to spend many years working on such a project. So it was important now to hold discussions to build up familiarity on both sides.

Dr David Owen, the former Social Democratic Party leader, who is a strong advocate of Anglo-French nuclear ties, also welcomed the moves reported in *The Times* yesterday.

He said: "This sort of proposal has enormous potential. I don't believe it should be such a long-term idea either. I strongly welcome it. There is not a single leading French politician who doesn't talk this language now."

Dr Owen said he could see a situation in which French and British nuclear submarines fitted into a joint patrol pattern, with collaboration over the timing of refits.

Despite the French hesitation over a shared targeting policy, Dr Owen also predicted that this problem could be overcome.

## Zapu men held in Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

The escalation of Government action against the opposition Zapu party of Mr Joshua Nkomo became apparent yesterday with reports of widespread arrests of party officials.

Lawyers have confirmed that Mr Welshman Mabhema, aged 57, Zapu's Secretary-General, has been in Stops police camp in the western city of Bulawayo since Tuesday, together with a prominent Bulawayo city councillor, Mr Nelson Sidanile, also a Zapu member.

Two others known to be at Stops camp are an administrator at Zapu's offices in Bulawayo, Mr Mafushu Ncube, who is in his seventies, and an unnamed district councillor from the Nkayi area.

Mr Nkomo said yesterday that he had received reports that an unknown number of people had been arrested since Sunday in Victoria Falls, Hwange, Matetsi, Masvingo and Zvishavane.

Other sources in Matabeleland were able to confirm reports of generally widespread arrests, but were un-

able to be specific. Zapu officials appeared to have ceased to maintain contact with the party's leadership, following the announcement last week by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Enos Nkala, that Zapu's organs would "cease to function".

Mr Nkala accuses Zapu of being the main reason for the continued existence of guerrilla activity in Matabeleland.

The arrests follow the closure of Zapu's offices, police searches and the gassing of the dissolution of all district councils in the province of Matabeleland.

## Gulf War dilemma for Tokyo as more ships are hit

## Pressure builds up for Japanese action

From David Watts, Tokyo

The five gunboats that swept out of the west side of the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday to attack two Japanese tankers caused almost as much consternation in Tokyo as on the bridges of the Nishihar Maru and the Western City.

The attack has come at a time when Tokyo is searching for a means of contributing to the security of the Gulf without breaching a constitutional law forbidding deployment of military forces outside the country. No one is more aware of this than the Foreign Ministry, which is a test of Japan's willingness and capability to play a world role, especially when its interests are directly threatened.

Pressure is on not only from Western allies but also from domestic shipowners, the powerful All-Japan Seamen's Union and Middle East countries, who complain that Japan is doing nothing to make the Gulf more secure even though half of all the oil shipped through the area dur-

ing the first quarter was bound for Japan.

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, is publicly committed to announcing a policy before he leaves office at the end of this month and a special task force under Mr Takakazu Kurayama, the Deputy Foreign Minister, has been studying

Frankfurt (Reuter) — A Lufthansa Airbus jet with 157 passengers turned back from Tehran airport after the pilot saw what could have been tracer fire, an airline spokesman said yesterday. The pilot noticed trails of light as he was preparing to land on Wednesday night and returned to Frankfurt, fearing the plane could come under fire.

Lufthansa had no information on whether there had been shooting at Tehran airport but there was hardly any other explanation for the light trails, the spokesman said. Lufthansa planned to seek an explanation from the Iranian authorities.

The options, Mr Nakasone had hoped to present proposals during his visit to the United States in September but Mr Kurayama's panel could not produce anything in time.

There is no doubt where the Prime Minister's ambitions lie: he floated the notion that sending minesweepers to the

dispatch of military force since they would be there only to "remove obstacles". Few were convinced by the argument or unconcerned about the consequences of an attack on a Japanese minesweeper.

Mr Nakasone, as usual, was ahead of the consensus on military matters even if the

Maritime Self-Defence Forces have the capability to launch such an operation.

But the *sine qua non* of Japanese diplomacy is even-handedness, of not taking sides. And this applies particularly in the Gulf, where Japan is the only country in the Western camp which has

ready diplomatic access in both Baghdad and Tehran.

Though a *démarche* in Tehran after an earlier attack at the beginning of September brought outright denials from the Iranians, which the Japanese found less than credible, they are determined to maintain this access and, perhaps more important, to get straight back in with secure lucrative contracts and aid programmes after the guns fall silent.

Japan appears to have only one option for contributing to Gulf security: money. The men from the ministry would like it to be an indirect contribution to the upkeep of US forces in Japan. But that is thought to be too indirect for Mr Nakasone, who would not be able to assuage American frustration unless he could point to physical help "at the sharp end". Even then there is an unwillingness to finance combat forces, but with seven Japanese vessels attacked already this year such fastidiousness may soon become a luxury Japan cannot afford.

## Iranian speedboat units step up day attacks

From Nicholas Beeston, Dubai

Iranian speedboats stepped up their raids on merchant ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz yesterday when they attacked Japanese and Pakistani vessels hours after hitting two super-tankers carrying crude oil for Japan.

The latest tanker victim was the HT Johar, which was raked with machine-gun fire and hit by at least five rocket-propelled grenades in a daylight raid by two Iranian attack craft.

The captain of the 80,000-ton tanker said by radio that the Iranians converged on his ship from four miles away, under the noses of French and Soviet warships.

"We hardly had time or warning before they struck the ship," said the captain, who would not reveal his name. There were no injuries and the ship is expected to reach Dubai today.

The raid was followed by a similar attack on the Japanese tanker, Nissei Manu, in the Gulf of Oman.

Shipping sources said the daylight raids may have been prompted by the reluctance of many tanker captains to pass through Iranian target areas at night.

On Wednesday, Iranian speedboats hit two super-tankers carrying crude oil to Japan, the Japanese-chartered Western City and the Japanese vessel, Nishihar Maru.

But the Western City appeared to have been attacked by mistake. It was carrying half a load of Arab crude oil but was on its way to the Iranian oil terminal at Larak Island to load Iranian oil.

Yesterday's Iranian raids followed a claim in Baghdad that Iraqi bombers had hit "a large maritime target" off the Iranian coast, a term generally used to mean a super-tanker.

Tehran warned that it would "pound economic, industrial and military targets in all Iraqi cities with utmost force" unless Iraq ceased its air attacks.

## MP kills bedroom gunman

Mr Najah Wakim, a member of the Lebanese Parliament, above, explaining how he shot dead a gunman who tried to kill him yesterday at his home in Beirut.

The man stormed into the house, pushed past Mr Wakim's wife and daughter, and rushed into his bedroom (Reuter reports from Beirut). But Mr Wakim, aged 41, a lawyer, opened fire with his own pistol and killed the man instantly.

After police removed the body from Mr Wakim's home, left, they identified the gunman as Abdou Elias Abboud, a Christian. However, they later cast doubt on his identity, saying that he might have been carrying a forged identity card.

Mr Wakim said the man claimed to be a former policeman and had visited his home twice before to ask for a reference.

## Early triplets for first surrogate grandmother

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The world's first surrogate grandmother, Mrs Pat Anthony, aged 48, gave birth to triplets — two boys and a girl — in Johannesburg early yesterday, two weeks prematurely.

Late yesterday, the babies were in the clinic's intensive care unit but were said to be breathing normally.

They were born by Caesarean section — normal for a multiple birth — and Mrs Anthony was given an epidural anaesthetic, during which the mother remains conscious but feels little pain.

The triplets weighed 4 lb 10 oz, 5 lb and 2 lb 14 oz and there were three paediatricians present throughout the birth.

A leading Johannesburg obstetrician said the smallest baby would probably be placed in an incubator and would most likely be kept at the

hospital until its weight was satisfactory. He said it was not unusual for one baby in a multiple birth to be smaller and weaker than the others.

Mrs Anthony, from Tzaneen in the northern Transvaal, agreed to bear her own grandchildren because her daughter, Mrs Karen Ferreira-Jorge, aged 25, was unable to have any more children following a hysterectomy three years ago after the birth of a son.

Mrs Anthony was implanted with her daughter's ova, which had been fertilized by her son-in-law.

At first, gynaecologists were uneasy about the surrogacy because of Mrs Anthony's age. But the pregnancy proceeded without any hitches, although Mrs Anthony entered the clinic two months ago when her ankles became uncomfortably swollen.

Under South African law, Mrs Anthony will remain the triplets' legal

guardian until Mr and Mrs Ferreira-Jorge draw up adoption papers.

The British newspaper, the *Mail on Sunday*, which has bought exclusive rights to Mrs Anthony's story, has gone to extraordinary measures to protect its investment.

Yesterday, one of its team of reporters which has been guarding Mrs Anthony and her family around the clock for months, stood at the doors of the Park Lane clinic here trying to prevent other journalists from entering.

As voices rose and journalistic pleasantries were exchanged, the *Mail* man was forced to call upon the matron to eject the intruders.

The *Mail on Sunday* has not only ordered the family but also doctors and staff at the clinic not to talk to the press. A lawyer's letter has been sent to South African newspapers warning

that "immediate and vigorous" action will be taken against any report which infringes the *Mail on Sunday's* copyright and would result in "greater than usual claims for damages in view of the very extensive area of syndication". One of the main objects of the exercise appeared to be televising the occasion.

The results of a survey published in Johannesburg yesterday reveal that 72 per cent of South African women reject surrogate motherhood. The survey, conducted among 800 urban white women, showed that only 4 per cent of those interviewed were prepared to go ahead with surrogate motherhood without hesitation.

Twelve in 100 said they would welcome the opportunity of another woman bearing their husband's child if they were unable to conceive and 15 per cent said they would be happy for their mothers to bear their children.

Mrs Pat Anthony: legal guardian of the babies.



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- ☐ Red inserts in bumpers and body-side mouldings
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- ☐ 175/70 x 13 tyres
- ☐ 1.4 or 1.6 litre engines
- ☐ 5 speed gearbox
- ☐ Lower body-side paint treatment.

## The Escort Popular

- ☐ Rear wash/wipe is added to the Escort Popular. So now you can see what's happening behind as well as what's happening ahead.
- ☐ The wider your tyres, the greater your grip. Escort Popular saloons with 1.3 litre engines now get 155 SR13 tyres.

## The Escort L

- ☐ For effortless motorway performance, a five speed gearbox is now standard on with 1.3 and 1.4 litre Escort L models.
- ☐ Have you ever had your radio aerial snapped off in the night? Or, just as annoying, whipped off in the car wash? It'll never happen again if you drive an Escort L, because from now on Escort L models have rear window radio aerials.



## The Escort GL

- ☐ Few extras give more pleasure than a sunroof, especially the Ford design which tilts as well as slides. Sunroofs are now standard in all Escort GL models.

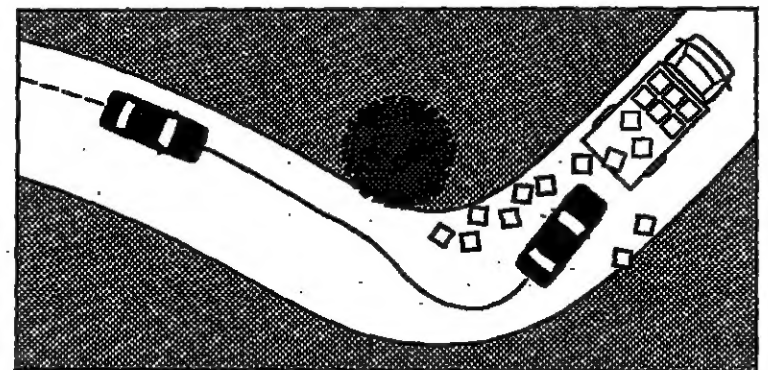
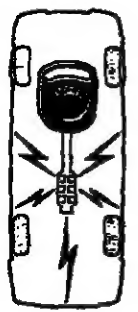
- ☐ How many times have you locked your doors but forgotten to lock your boot? This couldn't happen if you had central locking which is now standard on all Escort GL models.

## The Escort Ghia

- ☐ The Escort Ghia now gets wider 175/70 x 13 tyres for greater grip.
- ☐ The Escort Ghia also gets powered, heated mirrors. They de-mist and dry themselves as well as adjusting electrically.
- ☐ The ECU2 electronic sound system with its self-search, stereo radio/cassette is the ultimate in Ford's in-car entertainment. We've added this to the Escort Ghia.

## The Escort XR3i and XR3i Cabriolet

- ☐ Central locking used to be an option but both these cars now get it as standard.
- ☐ Powerful driving lights are now standard features too. Just what you need with winter coming on.
- ☐ The XR3i has a rear window radio aerial but we couldn't add this to the Cabriolet. So we've given it a power aerial instead.



Until now mechanical anti-lock brakes were only available on 1.4 or 1.6 petrol engined Escorts with manual gearboxes. Now they're an option on all Escorts with manual gearboxes.



Cars with a future



صلى الله عليه وسلم



## Nicaragua pledges to suspend offensives for a month

# Ortega picks three regions for cease-fire with Contras

From David Gollob, Managua

President Ortega of Nicaragua has declared a limited cease-fire to take effect in three areas for one month, beginning on Wednesday.

Describing the move as an "initial step" towards the implementation of a total cease-fire, as required under the terms of a peace plan signed in Guatemala last month, President Ortega said government forces would be withdrawn to the peripheries of the cease-fire zones, although local self-defence militias would continue to guard peasant co-operatives and state farms.

All offensive operations would be suspended, but government forces would defend civilian targets if they were attacked by Contras, he said.

Two of the three areas, each measuring roughly 200 square miles, are in mountains near Nicaragua's border with Hon-

duras. The third area is in the south-east, about 30 miles from the Costa Rican border. Although comparatively tiny, all three areas are of strategic value to both sides and have seen heavy fighting in the six-year war.

Reaction from Contra leaders was not immediately available. When the Government announced last week that it would declare a partial, unilateral cease-fire, Contra leaders described the move as "a publicity stunt," while State Department officials in Washington said it was a "trick."

Contra leaders insist that a cease-fire is not feasible unless the terms are negotiated with them. President Ortega said he would only entertain negotiations with the Reagan Administration, the sponsor of the Contras.

He said the purpose of the partial truce was to allow intermediaries to enter the



President Ortega indicating the boundaries of one of the three areas where his Government's unilateral cease-fire will come into force next week

war zones, make contact with rebel fighters, urge them to abide by the cease-fire, and verify that any who lay down their arms are given full amnesty.

This formula has apparently been devised to enable the Government to meet its obligation under the peace plan to "take all necessary steps" to arrange a cease-fire, without departing from its refusal to negotiate with the Contras.

Senior Ortega said the formula is modelled on the Government's successful pacification efforts in the Atlantic

## Honduras faces court test case over missing persons

From Martha Honey, San José

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has begun this week hearing a case involving missing persons detained by security forces in Honduras.

In its annual report released this week, Amnesty International alleges human rights violations, including government-linked disappearances and death squads activities, in nearly every Latin American country.

A breakthrough in one such case came recently when Senator Florencio Caballero, a former Honduran security officer who had ties with the death squads, agreed to give evidence about Honduran Government involvement in this and other disappearances. However, Senator Caballero, an illegal immigrant in Canada where he is seeking political asylum, may not be able to appear. His lawyers say that because his legal status is unresolved he will probably be prevented from returning to Canada when he leaves the country.

Dr Edmundo Vargas, the chief prosecutor in the case, said: "We really consider him

an important witness. He was a member of the Honduran armed forces and knows what happened between 1980 and 1982, when 130 Hondurans disappeared."

He added that it will be difficult to win the case without Senator Caballero's testimony.

It is the first time an international tribunal has agreed to prosecute a government for the crime of politically motivated disappearances.

The case is being watched closely by international human rights organizations, as well as by the families of the estimated 90,000 disappeared persons in Latin America.

If successful, it is likely to precipitate a flood of new cases from relatives of victims in Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador and other countries where political disappearances and killings by the armed forces and death squads have been common.

The case involves two Costa Ricans and two Hondurans who disappeared in Honduras in 1981 and 1982.

The Costa Ricans, Yolanda Follis, a teacher aged 27, and Francisco Faren, a student aged 28, disappeared while driving through Honduras to Mexico. The Honduran victims are named as Angel Manfredo Velasquez, a student aged 35, who was seized by security agents, and Jose Saul Godinez, a primary school teacher aged 32, who disappeared while on his way to work.

For years the families made futile efforts to obtain information from the Honduran Government about the victims, all of whom were taken alive.

The Honduran Government fought unsuccessfully to prevent the case from being brought before the court, which is under the aegis of the Organization of American States.

Honduras is accused of violating three articles of the American Human Rights Convention to which it is a signatory. If found guilty, Honduras could be ordered to pay compensation to the families of the victims.

## Church rescues Duarte peace talks

San José — The Salvadorean peace talks between the Government and guerrillas will go ahead this weekend despite a hitch in the preliminary talks, a rebel leader said yesterday (Martha Honey writes).

Hard-line statements by President Duarte caused the guerrillas to walk out of preliminary talks here earlier this week, but intervention by the Salvadorean Catholic Church led to renewed talks.

President Duarte had demanded that the guerrillas send their top five military commanders to the San Salvador talks this Sunday, and agree to lay down their weapons.

## Fears in Managua of a false dawn for democracy

Managua — The gradual implementation of a Central American peace agreement, signed in Guatemala in August, has taken Nicaragua some distance from the "totalitarian dungeon" depicted in the rhetoric of the Reagan Administration (Our Correspondent writes).

But opposition leaders here have given a warning that there is still a long way to go before this becomes a free, functioning democracy, and they fear that the current democratic opening will be short-lived.

"Many people think the Sandinistas are trying to make the world believe they are struggling for peace, when their real objective is to go after the Contras and finish them off," said Señor Horacio Ruiz, managing editor of *La Prensa*, the crusading opposition newspaper that resumed publication yesterday after a 15-month government shutdown. "Then they will go back to totalitarian rule."

"We would like to warn the world not to be fooled that everything is OK now because they have allowed one newspaper to come out," said Señor Enrique Bolanos, president of Nicaragua's powerful private sector association.

Although press censorship has been lifted, and a church-run radio station has been given permission to resume

All legally-registered political parties have received invitations. So has the Democratic Co-ordinating Committee — a coalition of right-wing political parties, private sector groups, and trade unions — known as the Co-ordinadora.

At a press conference in Managua on Tuesday, Co-ordinadora's president, Señor Carlos Henríquez, dismissed other opposition groups as "domesticated," and insisted that unless all the Co-ordinadora member groups were invited, the negotiations would be stacked in favour of the Sandinistas.

"We fear that the dialogue will be like other measures," he said, "a publicity stunt by a government desperate to repair its international image. Behind every measure the Government has taken there is a trap."

Señor Henríquez said the Co-ordinadora is made up of 14 organizations, including Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Were the Government to accede to its demands, it would effectively give the same political status to, for example, an association of building contractors, as it would to opposition political parties with proven popular support.

Señor Henríquez would not say whether the Co-ordinadora, the opposition group most favoured by the Reagan Administration, would boycott the negotiations if its demands were not met. The Co-ordinadora's boycott of elections here in 1984 wrested credibility from Nicaragua's first exercise in democratic politics, despite the consensus of most international observers that the vote was conducted fairly. A boycott of the dialogue could sabotage the Government's avowed efforts to achieve a national consensus, in compliance with the Guatemala agreement.

Dr Lombardo Martínez, a leading member of the Independent Liberal Party, which is not associated with the Co-ordinadora, accused it of maintaining a "defeated attitude" and of "generating suspicion instead of working for peace."

Behind this political manoeuvring lies the more intractable problem of what kind of democracy will result if the Government complies with the peace agreement. The Co-ordinadora has made it plain that it will settle for nothing less than a new constitution, in which the Sandinista Front becomes simply another political party.

"It's impossible to talk about democracy in a country like this where the system of government is founded on the union of the state, the (Sandinista) party, and the armed forces," Señor Henríquez said.

Private sector leaders have called for a return to "the democracy of private ownership," in which property confiscated by the Government from associates of the former dictator, Señor Anastasio Somoza, would be returned to the original owners.

However, Sandinista leaders have been emphatic that "the games of the revolution," including the redistribution of confiscated lands to peasant farmers, are not negotiable.

"Are we going to pay the price of 15,000 lives for a revolution and then give it away on a plate?" said Commander Tomás Borge, the only surviving founding member of the Sandinista front. "Impossible."



Señor Sergio Ramírez steps show "good faith"

operations, constitutional guarantees — such as freedom of assembly and habeas corpus — remain suspended under a continuing state of emergency. The Government has pledged to lift the state of emergency by the November deadline set down in the peace agreement. Opposition groups want it lifted immediately.

The Nicaraguan Vice-President, Señor Sergio Ramírez, has said that the limited steps the Government has made so far show "good faith," and were taken in the expectation of corresponding gestures from "other parties to the conflict." In a further move last week, the Government announced it would unilaterally declare ceasefires in designated areas of the country, and would be prepared to negotiate with rebel commanders in the field, although not with the Contra leadership.

The "other parties to the conflict" have yet to make their moves. The Contras have denounced the Government's call for a partial ceasefire as a "publicity stunt," and the US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Elliott Abrams, has called it "a trick."

Using similar language, headline opposition leaders have scorned the Government's invitation to meet them next Monday, a month before the deadline in the Guatemala agreement.

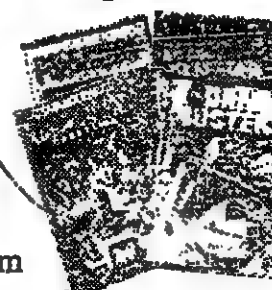
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## Franco-Spanish co-operation bears fruit

## Eleven more suspects held in fresh drive against Eta

From Harry Debelius in Madrid and Philip Jacobson in Paris

Spanish police yesterday arrested 11 alleged Eta terrorists, including a member of the Basque regional police force, in northern Spain and seized several caches of arms and explosives at flats used as terrorist hideouts.

The swoop was a direct result of Wednesday's arrest by the French anti-terrorist squad of a suspected leader of the organization, Señor Santiago Arzopide Sarasola, at a house in Anglet, in the French Basque territory.

The joint operation has been hailed in both countries as France's most successful security operation against the military wing of Eta. The Spanish are particularly jubilant because Señor Sarasola, alias "Santi Patros", is the first suspected top echelon Eta leader to be held by French police. Spanish police believe he has been in charge of Eta's

so-called "illegal commands", the killer squads which carry out missions to order.

Spanish commentators linked this upgrading of anti-terrorist co-operation between France and Spain to the meeting last August between the President Mitterrand of France and the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez.

French security sources say that the house where 39-year-old Señor Sarasola lived had been under surveillance for many months. He was overpowered before he could draw the pistol he was carrying. More than £400,000 in various currencies was also found in the house.

In a separate but almost certainly co-ordinated operation in the same Pyrenees-Atlantic region later the same day, another suspected

member of Eta's military wing was also seized in a swoop on what police sources describe as a major logistic base for the Eta groups operating out of this département bordering on the Basque region of Spain. Two other suspects escaped and are now being hunted through the area.

According to some reports 15 kg of documents were collected as a result of the two raids, and vital information was immediately passed to the Spanish authorities. Yesterday's arrests were the first results.

French and Spanish experts yesterday were sifting through the cache of documents, believed to contain invaluable intelligence material.

The evidence found at Anglet is "more important than the Sokoa papers," Spain's Interior Minister, Señor Jose Barrionuevo, said

yesterday. The "Sokoa papers" were documents discovered in November 1986 in a secret room in a furniture factory at Hendaye, on the French side of the border, which was used as a clandestine administrative headquarters and warehouse for Eta.

On past form, Mr Sarasola (described in Spain as one of the most dangerous Eta militants) will certainly be the subject of a speedy extradition request. He is the first major figure in the outlawed organization to have been captured since July 1986.

More than 90 people have since been handed over to the Spanish authorities (and, claim French critics of this policy, the near-certainty of torture) while some 400 other Basques are believed to have gone to ground in the border region.



The Pope opening a Synod at St Peter's in Rome yesterday. The session will discuss, among other matters, the role of women in the Church and political involvement by priests.

## Vatican joins in dispute on education

From Roger Boyes Rome

The Pope, the Italian church leadership and the Government of Signor Giovanni Corcia yesterday dug in for a long war of attrition over the role of religious education in Italy's schools.

Signor Corcia has been seriously embarrassed by the dispute which has stirred up issues — such as the tricky relationship between the Pope and the Italian Government — that are best left dormant. The Pope, too, would rather not be embroiled in a political feud at a time when the world's cardinals, bishops and theologians are gathered in the Vatican for a Synod (opened yesterday with great pomp in St Peter's) to discuss among other subjects, the limits of priests' political involvement.

The argument broke out when the new Education Minister, Signor Giovanni Galloni, drew up a school curriculum that put religious classes either at the beginning or the end of the school day. That would make it easier for children who wanted to exercise their right to pursue "alternative" subjects.

The Minister — a Christian Democrat like Signor Corcia — has made it clear throughout that he considers religious education an optional subject, rather like woodwork.

First, the Italian bishops protested, then the Pope publicly supported the bishops and on Tuesday the Vatican entered a formal protest.

The Government is dominated by the Christian Democrats who have always had a close relationship with the Church — indeed the Pope gave them a veiled endorsement in the June elections.

## 44 held on obscenity charges in China

Peking (Reuters) — Police arrested 44 people running a nationwide pornography racket and seized 80,000 obscene publications in Nan-chang, southeast China.

The underground printing and sales network, involving 600 sellers in 23 provinces, was uncovered when a retired teacher was caught "corrupting young people" by selling pornography from his home.

Police said that the Masses Publishing House in Nan-chang had earned profits of one million yuan (£164,000) since 1985 by selling pornographic printing plates.

## Surinam move on democracy

Paramaribo (Reuters) — Surinam has voted on a new constitution which is expected to bring democracy back to the former Dutch colony after seven years of military rule.

Government and opposition leaders predicted the result of Wednesday's referendum would resoundingly approve the constitution, setting the stage for general elections on November 25.

## Icons stolen

Tacloban (Reuters) — A multi-million dollar icon collection once owned by the former first lady, Mrs Imelda Marcos, has been stolen from a Philippines museum.

## Jewish exit

Geneva (Reuters) — The Soviet Union has allowed 5,380 Jews to emigrate through Vienna so far this year, nearly twice as many as in any full year since 1981, according to the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Committee for Migration.

## Wild West gun law comes to Florida

From Alan Tomlinson, Miami

One of the most crime-weary areas of the United States has gone back to the days of the Wild West to protect its citizens from outlaws. Florida yesterday gave ordinary people the right to wear guns openly on the streets.

As gun shops reported booming sales of handguns and shooting lessons, police departments expressed concern.

The sheriff of Dade County, which embraces Miami, the city with the nation's sixth highest murder rate, fears that short-tempered sharpshooters may reach for their guns to settle private disputes. The police chief of nearby Fort Lauderdale has vowed to arrest anyone toting a gun in public, irrespective of his rights.

The new law is aimed primarily at extending to ordinary citizens the kind of concealed-weapon licence formerly reserved for people with a demonstrable need, such as security guards. But in rewriting the old statutes, state legislators also removed a prohibition on openly displaying firearms. Miami police are hoping this may have been an oversight that will be corrected.

"In the meantime, it is permissible simply to strap on your six-shooter and walk down the street like you see in any American western," said Commander Bill Johnson.

Gun stores have been boosting sales by offering two-hour certification courses as the first step towards licence application.

At the Tamiami Gun Store, one of Miami's biggest, sales are up 50 per cent and 3,000 people have already taken the course.

"I work in a nightclub and a lot of times I've had guns pulled on me, so if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," said Mr Jim Lynch, aged 23, as he blasted away at the target range in the back of the store.

Florida authorities expect to receive 175,000 applications to carry guns. "The problem in this state is that people are sick and tired of being victims," explained Marion Hammer, the law's co-author and a director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida, an affiliate of the National Rifle Association.

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## Sicilian clans in new feud

## Mafia hitman shot dead in Palermo

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

Bullets ripping through one of the Mafia's top assassins have signalled the start of a new feud between the warring Sicilian clans.

Mario Prestifilippo, who is believed to have murdered the Mafia investigator, General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, and the Communist deputy, Signor Pio La Torre, was surrounded and gunned down by 10 men in a Palermo street on Wednesday.

Signor Prestifilippo was a senior member of Signor Michele Greco's family, a friend of the son, Signor Pino Greco, the most efficient assassin in the Sicilian-American clan and, at 29, one of the youngest in the hierarchy of organized crime. He had Godfather status and, when other family leaders met him walking on the street (accompanied by a phalanx of bodyguards), they would kiss his hand as a mark of respect.

According to the police, Signor Prestifilippo shot his way to the top. He is said to have helped to kill Signor La Torre, the head of the Sicilian Communist Party, and an expert on the Mafia, in 1982. Signor La Torre had been preparing anti-Mafia legislation which would have made it illegal to belong to the Mafia, allowed investigation of business activities of Mafia suspects and authorized the

confiscation of property and bank accounts.

Soon after that killing, the Italian Government sent Carabinieri General Dalla Chiesa to Sicily as Prefect. He was already something of a hero because of his campaign against the Red Brigades. After only four months in Palermo, he and his wife were murdered, also allegedly at the hands of Signor Prestifilippo.

The latest feud seems to have been initiated by a rival clan to the Grecos who now dominate the Palermo Mafia scene. In mid-November, the judges in the maxi-processo — a mass trial of 450 Mafia bosses — will pronounce their sentences. Even with expanded anti-Mafia legislation and with the evidence of a supergrass (the Mafia chief, Tommaso Buscetta), it will be difficult to convict everybody.

Some will be deemed to have served their sentences while awaiting trial; others will be acquitted because of lack of evidence. Thus all remnants of Mafia men will re-enter Palermo society before Christmas, swelling the clan and prompting extraordinary leadership contests.

The man best placed to take advantage of the new line-up would have been Signor Prestifilippo. He has been removed and the Greco family will now seek revenge.

## Scientists alarmed by ozone finding

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The ozone shield over Antarctica thinned last month to the lowest level since record-taking began. Since 1979 there has been a drastic 55 per cent overall loss, American scientists have discovered in the most alarming evidence so far about the phenomenon.

A six-week expedition to Antarctica by 60 scientists co-ordinated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has established conclusively that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are at least partly to blame, with extreme weather also contributing.

Environmentalists immediately interpreted the new data as overwhelming justification for international curbs on CFCs. Mr Robert Watson, the Nasa programme manager, said the mission's report would give impetus to an international agreement designed to halve world consumption of CFCs by early next century. The accord, tentatively approved by 46 countries last month, would freeze world consumption of the chemical at 1986 levels and cut its use in the industrial world within a decade.

The Nasa expedition found substantial amounts of chlorine monoxide, a byproduct of CFCs that has been exposed to ultraviolet rays, prompting Mr Watson to say that there was "no longer debate as to

whether chlorine monoxide exists within the chemically perturbed region at abundances sufficient to destroy ozone".

The loss of ozone has at times been staggering: the expedition monitored a 10 per cent fall in a single day in one area. The effect of CFCs may be more severe in Antarctica because of weather conditions.

Stratospheric ozone forms a thin gaseous veil at least 12 miles above the Earth's surface, screening out harmful ultraviolet rays. CFCs are widely used in refrigerators, aerosols and other products. The ozone depletion in Antarctica occurs each year in the spring. The expedition found that between mid-August and mid-September this year the ozone at an altitude of 11 miles thinned by 50 per cent. Dr Watson said the researchers believed that CFCs were playing a role in the destruction of ozone at all latitudes. In temperate zones the destruction seemed to take place at higher elevations.

The explanation offered for the appearance of the Antarctic ozone "hole" in the spring was that as the sun appeared after the dark Antarctic winter the chlorine adhering to ice crystals in the atmosphere was converted by sunlight from passive to active molecules that reacted with and destroyed the ozone.

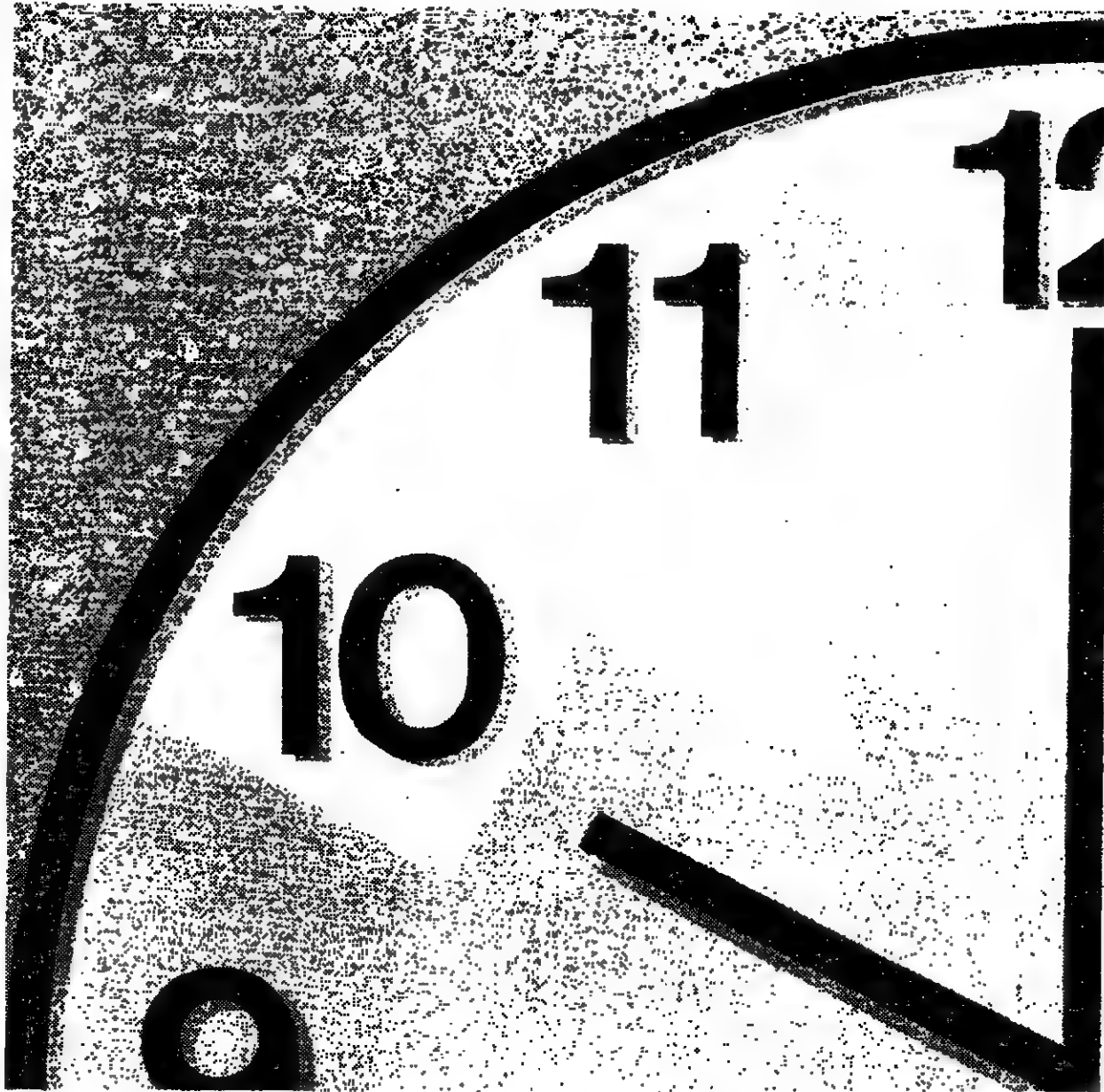
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# The deadly factor

Survival for a haemophiliac is a regular injection of Factor VIII. Yet in 1984 this lifeline became contaminated with the Aids virus HIV. Many were infected — some of them children — and many died. Thomson Prentice reports on the continuing tragedy

**T**wo hundred people who depend upon the National Health Service for their very lifeblood, believe that instead they have been given a prescription for disaster.

John Prothero is one of them. He and his girlfriend, Sharon Hart, know that whatever the future holds for them, they can never have children. Just loving each other is dangerous. He is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and may develop Aids, simply because he is a haemophiliac.

About three years ago he routinely injected himself with Factor VIII, a blood-clotting agent essential to treat his condition. The American-made product, imported because Britain could not make enough of its own, was contaminated with the virus.

All over the country some 4,000 other haemophiliacs were doing the same thing. Although Factor VIII has been safe for two years, there are now 1,200 sufferers carrying the deadly virus, and a high percentage of them are doomed. At least 57 have already contracted Aids, though the true figure could be as high as twice that. Forty-one have died.

"I have no idea what will happen to me," says John Prothero, aged 43. "Compared to some of the others, I have been lucky. I don't have Aids. I am reasonably healthy. I have a home and a job, and people like Sharon, who understand and care."

Haemophilia, which prevents the blood from clotting, is an inherited, painful and disabling condition which affects only males. Because Aids is transmitted sexually, the wives or girlfriends of every HIV-positive man are at risk, as are any children that may be born to them.

Some haemophiliacs who have been found to be HIV-positive are themselves still only children, others teenagers. All of them, sooner or later, will suffer in some way. Already, many relationships have foundered and marriages have cracked under the huge

stresses imposed by the knowledge that one partner's condition may threaten the life of the other and their family.

John and Sharon are London civil servants who began going out together about two years ago, after he discovered he was infected. He told her of his condition at the start of their relationship.

"I decided honesty was better than secrecy. I have come to terms with my infection. It's the possible effect on others that now concerns me more," he says. "If Sharon and I were to marry, children would be out of the question. That is my biggest regret. The risk of infecting her and consequently our child is simply unacceptable."

They therefore take precautions. Sharon says: "If you love someone, their HIV antibody status shouldn't matter. We know what the situation is, and we live with it."

Many haemophiliacs with HIV now have problems with employment, life insurance and mortgages. They are "bad risks", exposed to prejudice and discrimination, possibly for the rest of their lives.

**M**any of those who have died have left behind widows and children with little or no financial protection.

On October 13, the Haemophilia Society launches a unique campaign aimed at getting compensation from the Government. The Society's general secretary, David Waters, says: "Our case is simple. Our members were infected with HIV through the health service. Their lives are ruined or badly damaged as a result. They and their families urgently need assistance."

So far the Government has resisted their appeals, indicating that claims must be pursued through the courts.

Almost every day, meanwhile, Waters receives letters that illustrate their plight. Here, published for the first time, are extracts from some of them. For obvious reasons, all are anonymous.



The dangerous cost of loving: John Prothero, a haemophiliac infected with the HIV virus, and his girlfriend Sharon Hart

## Letters with no answer

### THE HUSBAND

"The terrifying thing about the virus is that I might have passed it on to my wife"

"If I had been told I had cancer I know for an absolute fact I could have struggled it off and said to hell with that, mate. I will fight and beat it, because at least it can in some cases be beaten."

"But Aids, how the hell do you fight Aids? It is the inevitability and the stigma that make it so frightening. But much more than that it is the way my wife and son would be treated."

"The most terrifying thing about the Aids virus is that I might have passed it on to them. If I die and they develop Aids they would have to face it without me, the person who gave it to them."

"That thought is with me

every moment — except when I can afford to get so drunk that nothing matters for a few hours."

"A million pounds a day could not compensate me for the damage the virus has done to our lives. Sex is nonexistent. I don't feel clean, I don't feel fair kissing my wife and son."

### THE MOTHER

"The children at school were very cruel to me. They called him terrible names and refused to go near him. He became very upset and distressed, because by now he knew he had got the Aids virus."

"We seem to live our lives under a constant shadow, just as though you dare not mention that my son is a haemophiliac, because of all the stigma involved."

"People will never understand until it happens to someone they love, but I hope it never does. We always thought our son had a future to look forward to, never thinking that the very thing that kept him alive could turn out to take his life."

"What future is there without life insurance, mortgage facilities, a girl to love him, and most of all the right to be a father? All I ask is for some support to help other people like my son."

### THE WIDOW

"My husband died in January 1986, at the age of 32. Just before he got Aids he was in the middle of getting extra life insurance, but the Aids scare stopped that. I am left with two children, aged two and nine."

"I have a mortgage to pay as he couldn't get mortgage protection. I have no money except for my widow's pension, and I have to live on supplementary benefit."

"Not only have I lost my husband and breadwinner, but my children have also lost a very good and loving father. I have gone a year and four months not only trying to get over his death, but also the struggle to keep our home. We are desperate for some financial help."

### THE PARENTS

"My eldest son is nearly 14. He does not know he is HIV positive. I dread telling him"

"We have three boys who are all HIV-positive. My oldest son is nearly 14 and is just starting to discover girls. He does not know he is HIV

positive and I dread having to tell him."

"Don't you think it is bad enough living with haemophilia — he has an injection of Factor VIII every day — without this terrible extra burden?"

"As far as we can see the future is very bleak. The fear of Aids has made haemophilic families more secretive. A couple of years ago I would not have thought twice about telling anyone. Now wild horses would not drag the information from me."

### THE WIFE

"We got married in June 1984, and in July or August we were told that my husband was HIV positive. We were shattered and petrified. When we got home it was totally different to before. I was scared to death for him to touch me or kiss me."

"I loved him but I did not want what he had. I really wanted a baby but now I had to forget it. We have managed, and we love each other, but times get rough. We have arguments because there are still times I won't let him touch me because I am frightened."

"I could have left him several times, but I can't. I suppose I love him so much and I keep thinking one day we will have children. Luckily I am negative, but I wonder for how long."

## Bringing Star Wars back to earth

For years the Russians have said *nyet* to SDI — now they are starting to talk

**W**ith all the excitement over the agreement reached in Washington to eliminate intermediate-range missiles in Europe, Star Wars has taken a back seat. But not for long. President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative remains one of the major issues to be resolved before serious negotiations can get under way to reduce strategic weapons by 50 per cent.

Dr John Pike, associate director for space policy at the Federation of American Scientists and an acknowledged expert on Star Wars in the United States, is reputed to have personally played a part in influencing the Russians to relax their previously inflexible attitude towards SDI. He and other American scientists have had regular meetings in Washington and Moscow with their counterparts in the Soviet Academy of Science.

Although there is still strong opposition in some quarters in Washington, particularly the Pentagon, to any kind of negotiation with the Russians over Star Wars, Pike believes that Moscow is now ready to compromise. In talks three years ago with Russian scientists engaged in similar research in the Soviet Union, Pike suggested that there could be an agreed limit on the type and size of weapon tested in space.

"There was no reaction," Pike said yesterday while on a visit to London. "Yet last November at a conference in Hamburg the Russians began to show an interest, and now they have come up with a list of specific thresholds, including limits on the brightness of lasers, a maximum speed and altitude for rocket interceptors, and limits on the size of mirror used for reflecting laser beams."

The list of Soviet ideas, which, ironically, matched Pike's, were handed over by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, during his recent trip to Washington.

The Russians had come a long way from their original stance, which was basically *nyet* to Star Wars. But the changed position has caused division in Washington. Should the US agree to limiting Star Wars research for the sake of a deal on strategic missiles?

Paul Nitze, the veteran arms control adviser to Reagan is personally urging such talks, but the hawkish Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, wants to push ahead as fast as possible

with every Star Wars test Congress agrees to fund.

"From my talks with the Russians," said Pike, "it was clear that they are just as keen to carry on with their research. The American Star Wars budget averages out at about \$4 billion a year. The Russians are spending the equivalent of about \$2 billion."

"But the Russians fear the progress of American technology. They have reason to. At a conference in Moscow recently, a Soviet scientist said that battle management, one of the key elements of a ballistic missile defence system presented tremendous technical problems. He said the computational speeds would be faster than they could cope with. I told him that was no problem for us."

There are three arguments for imposing threshold limits, says Pike. First, agreement on the scope of Star Wars research would clear the way for negotiations on strategic missiles; second, it would



Pushing ahead with tests: hawkish Caspar Weinberger

introduce an element of trust between the two sides while allowing the research to continue; third, it would help to resolve the key issue of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. If both sides agreed on verifiable limits to research, there would be no argument over whether tests were breaching the treaty.

Another point is that Congress is going to impose funding limits on Star Wars anyway, so the Americans might as well work out appropriate limits now.

So far the Star Wars tests in the US have been on a small scale. But several major contracts were awarded last year and by 1989 much larger tests will begin. "You'll start to see some real hardware then," said Pike. "Yet we will still be a long way from demonstrating a deployment capability."

Michael Evans

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ACROSS

- 1 Sense (6)
- 2 Degree dissertation (6)
- 3 Illium (4)
- 4 Dust bowl state (8)
- 5 Show (7)
- 6 Fainter's revolver (8.5)
- 7 Cleverly funny (5)
- 8 Senior woman (7)
- 9 Siegfried, Odette, Odile ballet (4.4)
- 10 Accomplish (4)
- 11 Lure (6)
- 12 To wit (6)

DOWN

- 1 Evidence giver (7)
- 2 Reluctance to work (5)
- 3 New Zealand native (5)
- 4 Story (4)
- 5 Submarine tube (7)
- 6 Steam bath (5)
- 7 Mild, pleasant (5)
- 8 Mussy (5)
- 9 Pull out (7)
- 10 Stage backcloth (7)
- 11 Garbage (5)
- 12 Ancient music building (5)
- 13 Unsophisticated (5)
- 14 Destination (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1375

ACROSS: 1 Pledge 4 Phobia 9 Artiste 10 Gores 11 Pair 12 Lobster 14 Elephant Man 18 Hangdog 19 Edgy 22 Trust 24 Lucifer 25 Hidden 26 Upkeep

DOWN: 1 Peak 2 Extra 3 Gastrodod 5 Hug 6 Brenna 7 Assert 8 Hell's Angels 11 Pie 13 Buttercup 15 Languid 16 May 17 Thatch 20 Gaffe 21 Crop 23 Tie

## WHAT PRICE AN ELEPHANT EAR COFFEE TABLE?

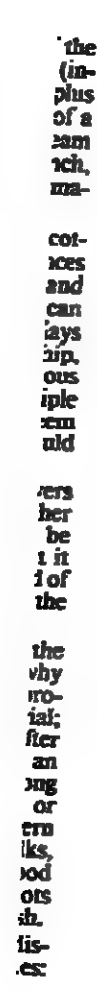
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### High noon at Heinemann

Just when *Spycatcher* is making progress in its battle for publication here, the top man at Peter Wright's British publishers has resigned. William Heinemann's managing director, Brian Perman, who two weeks ago cheerfully accepted an "award" for his services in promoting the book, leaves with three other senior directors. One of the trade's best known publicists, Susan Boyd, the wife of novelist William, was last night said to be considering whether to join the exodus. In a heavily ironic letter to agents announcing his departure Perman wrote: "I felt impelled to resign." It appears that the resignations may be connected with the appointment as publishing director of the highly respected Helen Fraser, who left Collins this summer. The departure of William Heinemann's senior management will undoubtedly leave some of its authors, who include Marilyn French and Fay Weldon, in a quandary at a time of great flux in publishing. Two years ago Heinemann itself was bought by Paul Hamlyn's Octopus group.

### Sale offer

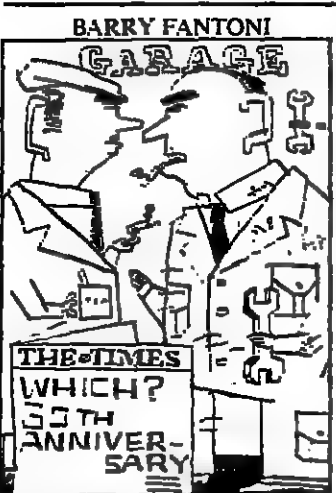
When the family silver goes for a song there is usually little one can do about it. But one Irish country house owner tells a different story. Major Victor MacMurtrei, who auctioned part of an inheritance at his Mount Juliet home in County Kilkenny last September, included a painting of Captain Cook whose importance Sotheby's failed to recognize. The picture, by William Hodges around the time of Cook's 1772 to 1775 voyage, went for £127,000 (£24,500) and was then resold by a hawk-eyed Bond Street dealer, David Posnett, to the National Maritime Museum for £630,000. The original estimate was £18,500. But the major is selling more of his inheritance through Sotheby's later this month, and recompense has clearly been forthcoming. The vendor's premium is usually 10 per cent, but the major would only tell me: "Sotheby's have altered their terms in a satisfactory way. They have been very helpful."

### Making tracks

Michael Foot wasted his time when he joined speakers at *Tribune's* 50th anniversary rally at the Labour conference this week. Chairing the meeting, the left-wing weekly's new editor, Phil Kelly, decided to save his most famous predecessor's contribution until the end. As Ken Livingstone, Joan Ruddock, Chris Mullin, Tom Sawyer, Diane Abbott, Ian Mikardo, Jo Richardson and a guest speaker from France dined on, Foot fidgeted and grimaced. Twice briefly disappearing behind the curtains, he did not return a third time. A sheepish Kelly admitted to groans from the hall that he had misunderstood when Foot had said he needed to leave at 10pm sharp for his train to Wales. Sorry.

### Hard cover

CND has for long campaigned against the provision of municipal bunkers because they suggest that a nuclear war could be fought and survived, but its members in Stoke-on-Trent are for the moment uncompromising. Expecting a flood of donations for a fund-raising auction later this week, the group has been given use of the bunker beneath Hanley's main library to store the overflow.



Barry Fantoni  
"Seems only yesterday you said they were going to put us out of business"

### Butler's tale

American regard for history saw the elite of New York journalism, Pierre Salinger, Walter Cronkite, Art Buchwald et al, collected in the Duke of Windsor's old home in Paris on Wednesday to celebrate the centenary of the *International Herald Tribune*. But they were all upstaged by the man who opened the door, Butler Sydney Johnson, who had served the Duke since the age of 16, stood resplendent in Buckingham Palace livery and close to tears: "The first party in the house since just before the master died. It is nice to have laughter again." Then he produced a much-thumbed copy of the *Trib*, discovered among the Duke's possessions. It was handed over to the paper's publisher, Lee Huebner, by the home's present master, Mohammed al-Fayed, the Egyptian owner of Harrods.

PHS

# Her Majesty takes sides

by Enoch Powell

The Queen of Fiji is in a right mess. I myself would not much mind about that, if it were not that the Queen of Fiji happens — I use the word "happens" advisedly, because it is not necessarily so — to be the same person as the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who is my own sovereign and the source of all authority lawfully exercised in my country.

There has been, it appears, a revolution in Fiji and power has been usurped by force — much as it was, for instance, at the French or the American Revolutions. In these circumstances, the United Kingdom, unless stupid enough to attempt to intervene physically, has to decide whether or not to recognize the new government and state created by the revolution. The traditional criterion for reaching such decisions is whether the new government gains effective control of its territory.

If the new state thus recognized is declared a republic, the UK government has to decide whether to invite Parliament to amend our law so that Fiji stays in the Commonwealth. A corresponding decision would have to be taken by every other Commonwealth state in accordance with its own legislative procedures. Hitherto,

not unreasonably, all the Commonwealth states have in such cases taken the same decision.

In those decisions of the United Kingdom — recognition, retention of Commonwealth status — the Crown would act on the advice of its UK ministers. As sovereign of Fiji before the revolution, the Crown, in the person of its representative, the governor general, was deemed by the like constitutional rule to act always on the advice of its Fiji ministers. If by a revolutionary act — it may unilluminatingly be called "treason" — the governor general is prevented from acting or ceases to have ministers who will advise him, the Crown has no longer any constitutional function unless and until it acquires new ministers.

There seems to be an idea in some quarters that the Queen, acting personally and not on binding ministerial advice, or else some curious entity called "Buckingham Palace", can and does make statements of policy which are calculated to influence the development of affairs in Fiji and which might bear upon the attitude to be taken towards those affairs by the United Kingdom or

other states. This idea is constitutionally unsound and fraught with disagreeable consequences.

Of course, no constitutional rules apply to revolution. Revolution is by definition the breach of existing constitutional rules. But that is far from meaning that when a revolution occurs in one of Her Majesty's realms, the constitutional principles which are maintained in the United Kingdom and her other realms can wisely or safely be disregarded. It is of the essence of our constitutional monarchy that, when political change is about, the monarch remains aloof until the outcome provides new advice. Otherwise the Crown becomes involved itself and is at risk in the conflict; there arise "sides", with the Crown on one of them; and the spectacle appears of a "King's party" — the very mischief which we British have slowly and laboriously contrived since 1640 to exorcise.

I have no idea what will be the eventual outcome in Fiji, nor can I assign meaning to the question: "What ought the outcome in Fiji to be?" It matters not a rap, so far as I can see, to the United Kingdom. What I do not wish is

that, however mistakenly, the impression should gain ground that the sovereign, unsustained by the advice of ministers whom I can get at and criticize, openly favours and promotes one particular outcome or kind of outcome there. Once that impression gains ground without contradiction, its extension may be hard to limit. Indeed, extension to members of the Commonwealth which are republics might be encouraged by the undefinable and contentless description of the sovereign as "head of the Commonwealth". The result would be to weaken everywhere the understanding of the constitutional principle of a Crown that acts politically only on responsible advice.

Constitutional logic is apt to avenge attempts to ignore it. The predicament in which we and the sovereign find ourselves today is the result of two such attempts. The more recent and blatant was the pretence that whether the constitutional monarch of the United Kingdom can also be "head" of a collection of independent countries around the world. But that pretence did no more than project the earlier illogicality of the Statute of Westminster itself. It is in nobody's interest to kick that sleeping dog awake now.

## Graham Mather offers an alternative vision of opt-out social services

Precisely because it does not conceal a hidden agenda to reshape the welfare state, the candid weekend speech by John Moore, the Social Services Secretary, has generated the most promising discussion about the fundamentals of social provision since the ill-fated "think tank" report was shelved in 1983.

Laying bare the moral, social and individual aspects of welfare care helps to disentangle issues that have languished in the short-term rhetoric of interest-group politics. Yet to place the welfare state in historical context is also to come up against the pressures which lead to increased public spending, together with the intractable problems of targeting and delivering services to the needy.

So it is as well to be clear from the outset about the starters and non-starters in the search for clues to the way in which state welfare care will develop.

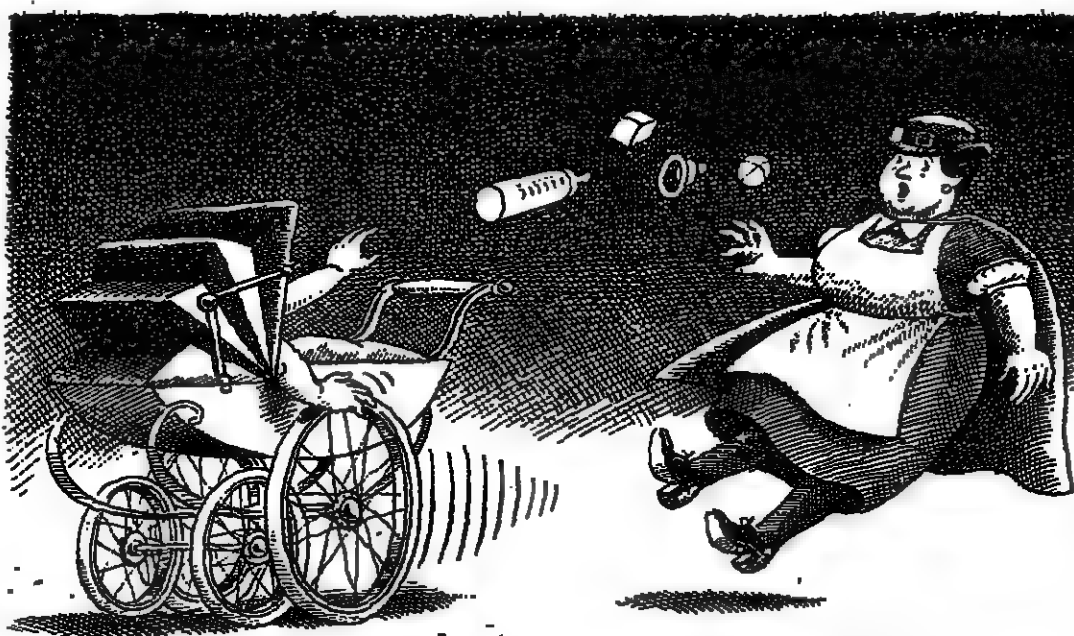
It must be apparent that the caring services cannot be isolated from a changed general understanding of what is the most efficient way of allocating functions between state and private sector. Just as central and local government are embarked upon a course of retrenchment in the extent of their function and the numbers of direct employees, so the contracting-out of work is likely to develop in ancillary services and primary care alike.

With health and social service authorities responsible for specification and quality control, rather than being involved at every stage in the delivery of services, an extension of competitive tendering holds out the prospect of major improvements in resource allocation. In one health authority studied recently, five out of six contracts put to tender produced savings of between one-third and two-thirds of the former cost, with better management control thrown in.

The scope for help from charitable agencies is large. Some progressive local authorities already ask charities like Age Concern to act as agents for personal social services, and it is clear that modern, well-run charities have an access to voluntary help, and increasingly to cash, that public authorities will find hard to match. A stronger partnership between the public sector and charities is one of the most promising avenues to more effective community care.

It is not possible to separate the financing of the welfare state from its desired outcome. Dependence or independence will ultimately follow the movement of cash. Here lie the keys to past wrong turnings and future possibilities.

All progressive or redistributive tax systems impose means tests; but that does not make means tests pleasant. When a progressive tax system interacts with a mixture of contributory and non-contributory benefits, universal benefits like child benefit, special allowances, and discretionary loans, the result is bound to be complex and unsatisfactory. Moving through the system step by



## Breaking free of welfare's bear-hug

step helps to clarify the picture.

For good or ill, child benefit is an isolated example of a universal benefit system that has failed to take root. The expense of collecting through the tax system and reallocating through the benefit system some £5 billion pounds locks millions of middle-class parents unnecessarily into state welfare. Taxing the benefit simply makes farcical the round-trip of cash. But a tax allowance would cut out the unnecessary merry-go-round for parents above the tax threshold, leaving cash benefits for those on lower incomes.

With computerization of Inland Revenue systems at long last lumbering into sight, and DHSS national insurance numbers beginning to appear on tax forms, the possibility of integrating tax and benefit systems in a "negative income tax", with one system collecting tax or paying benefit, becomes a possibility.

It is important to be clear about the limits of a unified system. Linked to a basic income guarantee, it would be prey to the same political pressures that transformed Lord Beveridge's national insurance from a genuine insurance scheme to promises by one set of politicians that a succeeding generation would redeem pledges of future benefits for which no provision had been made.

It is the same problem that makes means testing necessary: until the financing of social benefits is honest, open and transparent to individuals who contribute to their cost there is an inevitable

tension between the perception of entitlement and the reality of under-funding. But again there is a chance of progress. It is to use the principles that now apply to personal pensions and are beginning to appear in new rights for parents and for tenants to opt out of state provision, taking with them a per capita slice of the spending which would be made on their behalf.

Insurance against unemployment and illnesses other than long-term or catastrophic is provided by mutual societies, bodies linked with trade unions and the private market around the world. Once individuals are allowed to see the pattern of spending made on their behalf, it is a small step to introduce tax reliefs for those who wish to make their own provision, against a state-set minimum protection.

Ultimately, it is possible to envisage families and individuals accepting responsibility for a wider range of social insurance, equipped with a range of opportunities to opt out from state provision through an integrated tax and benefit system, with government setting standards but concentrating most of its help on those whose circumstances correspond more closely with an acceptable definition of the needy.

The government could start by allowing individuals to claim tax relief for private health insurance, perhaps beginning with the elderly, or for topping up state education provision.

An integrated tax and benefit

system would speed the process, reducing cash transactions to paper. The same system would pay credits where individuals decided to opt out entirely and make personal provision for their families. A survey this year for the first time put a price tag on the per capita value of these credits. It will be published next month by the Institute of Economic Affairs. It showed an astonishingly high preparedness to accept credits as an alternative to state provision.

Further down the line it is possible to envisage social insurance against less than catastrophic risks being contracted out to mutual funds and savings institutions, with employers contributing to unemployment insurance schemes for their workers.

The package amounts to an updated Beveridge. The astonishing development of financial institutions, and the financial sophistication of millions of people, provide opportunities undreamed of in 1947. Grafted to Beveridge's original concept, of social insurance, with the state meeting the premiums of those unable to contribute, the power and flexibility of our financial institutions can preserve and expand the welfare state.

With a minimum income safety net provided through a streamlined single tax and benefit system, more generous public support in cases of catastrophic and long-term illness and disability could be afforded. Harnessing the insurance market to social care, with basic insurance compulsory, and tax relief to encourage additional personal provision, could mean fewer means tests, greater independence, clearer entitlements and reduced pressure on public spending and redistribution of income. In tune with the trend to personal pensions, opt-outs in education and housing, it could complete the break-out from the straitjacket of the all-embracing state.

The author is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

## Frances Gibb on concern among lawyers as the government moves to legislation

### Squeezing the life out of legal aid?

prepared to do the work threaten to decline. Firms specializing in legal aid amount now to only several hundred, a tiny minority of the 10,000 firms in England and Wales; and most run on bank overdrafts, have small staffs working long hours for low pay, with little technological back-up.

The government has been under pressure to act in the face of the great increase in demand for legal aid, now said to be the single fastest growing branch of public spending. A Treasury-led team of officials came up with radical cost-cutting proposals, which amounted to only £35m savings but with longer term implications for much greater government control over publicly funded legal services. This, watered down, was the basis of a White Paper in March which will be the basis of next month's bill.

One key proposal of the White Paper was for a new legal aid

board to take over the scheme from the Law Society; but with wider powers. It would be in charge of assessing the means of a legal aid applicant, decisions on granting criminal legal aid (now done by the courts) and some of the work of determining bills.

The leaders of the Law Society and the Bar want to ensure that the board is sufficiently independent of government to assess fairly a person's need for aid.

Second, the government intends to set standard charges, which means a fixed fee for the job rather than hourly rates. The profession has warned that this could lead to lawyers giving less time and attention to the work, and to more withdrawing from the scheme.

Third, the White Paper made clear that as an "early task" the new board would look at where legal aid advice work (on housing and welfare, for instance) could be

"contracted out" to those providing a better service than solicitors at lower cost.

They have advice agencies in mind. It would mean solicitors giving up chunks of legal aid work to non-lawyers. Lawyers say that unless this work is done in a solicitor's office, and under his control, there will be far fewer outlets of advice for the client, who will be shuttled from advice centres to solicitors as soon as court proceedings begin. Above all it would mean, as one judge put it, legal advice given by people not subject to professional controls.

The government's aim for greater efficiency commands widespread support. But the aim is not matched by a commitment to maintaining a high standard of service. On the contrary, the government has made clear that it wants to sever links between rates of pay for privately funded work and those of legal aid work, and will legislate to achieve this.

If the government wants legal aid to survive, its more stringent controls must be accompanied by rates of pay which attract competent lawyers. Otherwise, in the words of one senior judge, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the gap between the wealthy and poor ends of the profession will widen further, leaving two standards of service, depending on a person's ability to pay.

John Rae

## Good and bad film violence

The Home Secretary should consult Thomas Aquinas. The arguments for a just war have a bearing on the debate about violence in the media.

I have just seen Brian de Palma's film, *The Untouchables*, which tells the story of a group of lawmen who break the power of Al Capone in Chicago. It is a brilliantly choreographed film but it is also violent in the explicit manner that gives rise to our current anxiety about the connection between violence in the media and violence in real life.

The reaction of the audience to the violence in *The Untouchables* is instructive. When one of the good guys is slain, the violence is received in silence. But the violent death of the bad guys provokes spontaneous applause.

When Capone's gunman, who has murdered a policeman, is thrown off a high building, the audience cheers as enthusiastically as the Israelis cheered when David slew Goliath.

Should we really be concerned about all violence in the media, or is there a distinction to be made between legitimate or just violence, which is used in the pursuit of good goals, and unjust violence, which is anarchic and has no justification? My own reaction to violence on the screen is largely dictated by whether the violence appears to be justified by the evil that its victim has done. When a drug dealer is burnt to death in his car in *Lethal Weapon*, I feel neither sympathy nor revulsion. But when a tramp is kicked to death by a gang of young thugs in *A Clockwork Orange* I am appalled and cannot understand why the censors allow the scene to remain. The drug dealer is evil; he deserves his violent end. The tramp is innocent, the victim of anarchic brutality that can never be justified.

I accept that the portrayal of violence on the screen may encourage the random discharge of violence. What I do not accept is that the portrayal of controlled, legitimate violence has that effect. I call as witnesses the war film and the western. Both these types of film portray violence but one would not accuse them of encouraging violence in real life. Their violence is harmless in its effect on the audience. What is happening on the bridge at Arnhem and on the streets of Tombstone may look anarchic but the audience knows that it is not. The violence is under control. It is legitimate, it is not excessive. The western sheriff, acting with restraint to defend justice and using violence only when no other course is open to him, fulfils Aquinas's requirements for a just war.

The example of the war film and the western suggests to me that it is not the portrayal of violence as such that we should worry about, but the portrayal of a particular type of violence. Justified violence

may offend those who believe that hired killers should have a fair trial before being thrown off the roof, but as a screen fantasy it appears to do no harm. What is likely to trigger the adult psychopath and the young thing is the portrayal of uncontrolled, random and illegitimate violence, because that is precisely the sort of violence that excites them.

The dangerous individual is the one who has not come to terms with the violence in himself. We are all born with potential for violence. The balanced and mature have learnt how to control it. The unbalanced and immature have not. It does not require any research to tell us that an individual who cannot control the violence inside him may be stimulated to act violently by seeing violence portrayed on the screen.

My argument is that it is not all violence that provides the stimulation but only those violent scenes that echo his own violent urges.

The counter-argument is that the unbalanced and immature do not distinguish between just and unjust violence, between the restrained sheriff and the anarchic gangster, and that any portrayal of violence might provide the trigger. But I am unconvinced and believe this blanket approach may lead to mistakes in censorship.

The present demand for more censorship concentrates on reducing the incidence and the explicitness of violence. It is true that in recent years the censor has allowed more explicit violence. The use of imitation blood — made by a firm in Kensington Gore — has greatly increased. But while the goriness of contemporary screen violence may be disturbing, I do not think that in itself it is dangerous. The unseen, implicit violence in a Hitchcock movie may prey more insistently on the unbalanced mind.

It does not really matter that the sheriff's bullets draw blood these days. What does matter is that alongside the increase in Kensington Gore the censors have given the thugs, the rapists and the psychopaths the freedom of our screens. It is this increase in illegitimate violence that should worry us.

So I favour a selective approach to censorship. Scenes of illegitimate violence that excite unbalanced and immature minds should be heavily censored. You do not have to show a gang rape in all its detail to explain to the audience why society is hunting down the men involved. But scenes of legitimate violence should be less heavily censored. Not only are they harmless. They also reinforce morality. The wages of sin may be a violent death.

The author, Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation, was formerly head master of Westminster School.

## however... Henry Stanhope

### We rest our vanity case

Women's clothes next year, I read, are going to be short and "dirty", with romantic off-the-shoulder potential and apparently the occasional frou-frou — which I always thought had more to do with French maids and poodles than couture.

Well, that sounds all right to me. I am, however, under no illusions as to why this might be so. Any idea that this slight suggestion of décolleté in the spring of 1988 is intended to delight the masculine eye should be dismissed with the speed of Ms Linda Bellos tearing up a copy of *Playboy*.

Given that the sexes seem intended to attract each other (except in Haringey, Lambeth and Brent) one might have thought that they would dress with that in mind. But they don't. At least, women don't.

In the case of the 20th century man, such insouciance is permissible. Women might justifiably recoil from some unshaven brute in grubby slacks and T-shirt, shuffling round the house in bedroom slippers. But as long as he looks clean and tidy, they don't much mind what he wears.

Indeed, women are pretty conventional about male dress. Young men sometimes go to extravagant lengths to appear à la mode — particularly since the rise of the male model. As long as they wear a decent suit, collar and tie, with a sound-looking pair of brogues and laundered shirt — their better halves rest their case.

Hair care is rather similar. Many are those teenage males who spend small fortunes on hair tonic in the belief that it might prevent them from going bald. A friend of mine read somewhere that "Blair, Strap, Molasses" was a useful prophylactic in this respect and bought copious quantities in his youth. I cannot remember whether he rubbed it into his scalp or swallowed it. All I do know is that it didn't work very well.

The point I am making, however, is that most women I know find this masculine concern quite beyond them — like cricket and fishing in gravel pits. As for men who wear toupees and wigs... their chances of winning approval through such deceit are pretty slight.

In short, women regard vanity as a female prerogative. Their menfolk can have their football, motor bikes, beer and snooker,

But given her way the traditional Englishwoman would slam the door of the boutique and hair stylist's salon in their faces. Men are not supposed to look in mirrors — except just to straighten their ties or prevent themselves from cutting their throat while shaving.

She does not even dress with them in mind. The last thing she thinks of when she buys a new dress or spring coat is whether or not her husband will be pleased. No, she does so to impress her female friends. Clothes therefore have to be as good as she can afford and in tune with the latest trend — her friends being aware of such things. Whether the effect makes her more attractive or less attractive to the male of the species is at best a pretty secondary consideration.

There was a period in the 1960s when women's fashion was pleasing to most men. I refer of course to the era of the mini-skirt and the Blessed Mary Quant. But those men who might have thought that the hemline was a little over greater heights to terrify or tantalize them were living in fantasy-land. It happened because it was in fashion. The higher the hemline, the more in fashion they were — and the more they impressed each other with their daring and *je ne sais quoi*. The same applied of course to the so-called "kinky boogie" which, incidentally, became fashionable in summer, thus causing acute discomfort to those who wore them. Most clothes shown off by couturiers in their January shows, when mannequins swank down cat-walks before fashion writers enjoying a week in Paris, to most men look perfectly frightful. Frankly, I suspect that when the couturier, M Jean-Paul Gaultier, Barbu says that low hemlines and purple tulle are "in" this year, he just happens to have bought several miles of the stuff in a job lot. He knows only too well that with the help of a few well-chosen words by his PR agents he can quickly get rid of the lot.

Still, it looks as if by happy chance 1988 should be one of London's more scenic years. I see incidentally that half the American men questioned in a magazine survey complained that the clothes worn by women at work were "pointedly provocative". They'd better not come over here next year, that's all I say.

سكنا من الامم





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MR LIVINGSTONE PREDICTS

The man of dishonour is never more dangerous than when he is telling the truth. Mr Ken Livingstone, newly elected member of Labour's ruling national executive, warned on Wednesday night that if the party planned to abandon its non-nuclear defence policy, there would be civil war. For making this prophecy, he won bitter abuse in the defence debate yesterday. To Mr Tony Clarke, replying on behalf of the NEC, the actions of the former leader of the GLC were "immature, disgraceful, beneath the dignity of parliament". To Mr Denis Healey, he was a would-be godfather, fit only to "make horses' heads for the mafia".

Mr Livingstone is not a man renowned for sensitivity, either to his political opponents or to the truth. But not even his fiercest critics could call him a liar on this occasion. The "civil war" was going on all around them. Whether that war will make Labour unelectable, as Mr Livingstone also predicted, or whether it can end in a more acceptable defence policy for the Labour party, remains an open question.

Yesterday's anguaries will take a little time to become clear. The content of the debate was depressing. The black-and-white badges of CND shone time and time again from the rostrum; their wearers seemingly convinced that Trident could be turned into hospitals, that the Geneva arms talks owed their progress to the women of Greenham Common, that either there was no Russian threat or that the civil resistance of British socialists would be sufficient to keep that threat at bay.

It was an awesome display of cant. In terms of substantive replies there came only caution, a few straws with little wind. Yesterday it was no contest. The question is: will it ever be a contest? Does Mr Kinnock realise that this is a civil war which he must sincerely want to win?

There are some signs that he does. There has emerged this week the possibility that Mr Kinnock might be preparing to fight the next election on a policy which is "non-nuclear" in its eventual aim but not unilateralist in its methods. Mrs Joan Ruddock, a former chairman of CND and now a Labour MP,

suggested that Trident could be retained for its political uses, presumably in some form of arms reduction talks. Mr Kinnock echoed this in interviews yesterday.

Such a policy would not, in our view, be safe or acceptable until the Soviet Union is a provenly different state than it is today. And whatever Mr Gorbachev says, that proof will not be forthcoming in the period of time that is under consideration in Brighton. Nor indeed, whatever Mr Kinnock might say, is there likely to be acceptable proof that, as Prime Minister, he would not bargain away the Trident system in a deal which is as close to unilateralism as to make no difference.

From the Labour Party's point of view, however, there is a sensible question of whether such a policy might be enough to make it more electable. It would be foolish for it not to consider that, and Mr Kinnock now has the vote from his conference which empowers him to do so.

The events of the past two days have reminded us, however, of the very great obstacle that stands between the Labour Party and a platform on which it can plausibly face the electorate. For there is not only the ignorance of strategy, the illiteracy of military tactics that has been so deeply inculcated in the party at every level. There is the fact that the centre of that ignorance, in the party's constituency associations, is the power base for a man who is clearly Mr Kinnock's enemy.

Mr Livingstone uses Labour's totems like a terrorist throwing grenades. He may be sincere in his view of our national defence but he is much more serious about the defence of his personal political position, the base which brought him to power and which alone can keep him there. The open debate in Brighton this week has been about the obstacles - both politicians and policies - between Mr Kinnock and the door of Ten Downing Street. The hidden debate has been about how much of those obstacles Mr Kinnock really sees - and how much force he is prepared to use to push them aside.

THIRTY YEARS ON

Away from the fire and froth of Brighton, the painstaking business of securing the long-term future of Britain's defences continues. A degree of cooperation between the strategic nuclear forces of Britain and France has begun to look a serious possibility after talks between officials in London and Paris.

It may seem surprising to some that it has taken so long to examine this question. Both nations are partners in Nato (though the French have withdrawn from the integrated command structure); both belong to the European Community and, as founder members of the Western European Union (WEU), they are obliged to come to one another's defence in wartime. That two such powers, linked by current commitments and divided by only 22 miles of sea, have not found some means of cooperation before this may seem (put like that) to be almost perverse.

There are, of course, historical, technical and political reasons. Even now it would be foolish to presume too much too soon, given the obstacles ahead and the doubts which remain evident within both governments. None the less, there are attractive arguments for exploring the ground at all levels.

The least difficult involves joint patrolling - which has obvious benefits for Britain. With six submarines to carry their underwater deterrent, the French can guarantee three boats on station at any one time. But the Royal Navy, with a total force of four, can be sure of having no more than one - though for much of the time there should be two. Liaison with the French force of dissuasion should make each country more confident of the survival of at least one boat in wartime, when enemy anti-submarine activity would be intensive.

Joint targeting is more complicated. The French at present dismiss the possibility of disclosing their national list of targets and the British could find themselves in difficulties with the Americans, with whom they already liaise.

In the wake of a superpower agreement to withdraw all intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) from Europe, both governments might think it desirable to maximize what long-range nuclear weapons they possess. Sir Geoffrey

Howe referred in Brussels last March to the development of a stronger WEU, based on Western Europe's conventional forces and the British and French nuclear deterrents.

But to rush things at this stage would be both unnecessary and unwise. It is only since M. Chirac became prime minister last year that the French have shown much interest and only since an INF agreement began to look likely that they have become at all enthusiastic.

Mrs Thatcher and M. Chirac have a good understanding. The INF deal may make the discussions timely. But the talk is of a period many years ahead. Not even now, are all British ministers as keen as Sir Geoffrey and Mr George Younger.

The third area to explore involves the development of a next-generation deterrent to succeed Trident in Britain and the new multiple-warhead M4/TN-70 French missile. Britain showed interest in similar collaboration as long ago as the early 1970s, when it was prospecting for a successor to Polaris.

In theory, French experience in developing rockets and the British superiority in warhead design should make such a marriage seem attractive. But France's reluctance to compromise its independence, together with British doubts over how much technical knowledge it could share (given that much had been provided by the Americans under restrictive agreements) combined to dash the Heath government's enthusiasm.

Now the issue is once more alive - and re-awakened by backing from Mr Michael Heseltine last week. Whether it can be sustained is another matter. But if Anglo-French cooperation is going to extend into the field of nuclear weapon development, then now is the time to start talking - more than 30 years away from the in-service date.

Future discussions will have to be conducted in consultation with the Americans and West Germans. It is within the overall context not just of European defence but that of Nato as an alliance that they must be held. Bearing those considerations in mind, however, it is important that the talks should continue. This is a time at which both countries need to keep their options open.

Control by insects

From Dr Denis Pirrie  
Sir, Bracken is not the only weed the control of which might best be done by the introduction or reintroduction of insects. Until 20 years or so ago ragwort was more or less controlled by cinnabar moths and by the end of August the plants were covered by the black and yellow caterpillars eating leaves and flowers. Pesticides did for the insects - and now ragwort flourishes unchecked where farmers and others cannot or do not wish to use herbicides - but the cinnabar is very uncommon.

Could not a university department or ICI arrange for the breeding of a stock of these useful insects and for their distribution, so that pastures may be free of this noxious, if handsome, weed and partridges and other birds delighted by the return of this food.

Once established, the cinnabar will spread happily, a most cost-effective investment.  
Yours faithfully,  
DENIS PIRRIE,  
Flat 3, 14 Grange Gardens,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

The unique screen

From Mr D. B. Taylor  
Sir, Your distinction between censorship and editorship (leading article, September 22) would be fine if it concerned a privately owned newspaper such as yourselves. But as you yourself suggest, the case of television is (as yet) to

some extent unique. The same circumstances which render its images peculiarly powerful render the distinction you have tried to draw peculiarly tenuous.  
Nevertheless, the problem you draw attention to is a real one. A possible way forward is the proposed increase in the number of channels available. I for one would be happy with some decline in our boasted standards of excellence if it also meant a decline in the excessive influence which the existing channels seem to have over us.

But the price would only be worth paying if at the same time it was accepted that the different channels were entitled to exercise different standards of editorship; in some cases standards that perhaps the majority of us disapproved of.  
Yours sincerely,  
DAVID TAYLOR,  
7 Basil Mansions,  
Basil Street, SW3.

Drop in the bucket

From Mr D. R. Linnell  
Sir, Wing Commander McClure-Hall (September 25) will find that almost all cafes and tearooms provide small round bowls on each table for the disposal of tea-bags. However, some ill-mannered customers persist in disposing of cigarette ash in them as well.  
Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LINNELL,  
6 Alderton Rise,  
Loughton, Essex.

School governors

From Mr Dick H. Pantlin  
Sir, You have reported (September 21) that the National Union of Teachers believes that parents have neither the time nor the expertise to become valid governors of State schools, and that they are unwilling and unable to assume these responsibilities.

It might be useful to point out that virtually all the member schools of this organisation were created and are run by boards composed of businessmen and women; some have children in their school, some do not. As many of our schools have multi-million pound budgets, have had to build and equip their schools and have no administrative or financial assistance whatever from outside, the responsibilities and role of governors are considerable. Even in small communities we have no difficulty in finding enthusiastic volunteers.

Both pupils and teachers profit greatly by this system, which has the added advantage of bringing the educational and business worlds closer together, to their mutual benefit. There should be no reason why expatriate experience should not be valid at home.  
Yours faithfully,  
D. H. PANTLIN (Chairman),  
Council of British Independent Schools in the European Communities,  
11 Avenue de Mercure,  
Brussels, Belgium  
September 25.

By-pass concern in Winchester

From the Mayor and the Dean of Winchester

Sir, The Department of Transport's proposal for the M3 takes a high-level motorway up to 400 feet wide.

1. Through the area of outstanding natural beauty and the SSSI (site of special scientific interest) which include St Catherine's Hill and Twyford Down.
2. Through the ancient monument area with its downland hill settlements on the south side of Twyford Down.
3. At a high level 30 to 50 feet above the Itchen Valley SSSI water meadows at Hookley.
4. At a high level over the railway at Shawford.
5. Within about 350 yards of the ramparts of St Catherine's Hill.
6. On embankments rising about 125 feet higher than the level of the present Winchester by-pass.

The earthworks, excavation and ultimate road across Twyford Down will extend to at least 30 acres in extent and the cutting will have sides 100 feet high at its deepest point.

The alternative option of a tunnel has been rejected by the department. One objection is that a tunnel would take six years to build. This is the time allowed for the whole of the Channel Tunnel. A further major objection is as to cost, but it has recently become clear that the extra cost of a tunnel would not make the M3 Winchester-Southampton extension more expensive per mile than a number of other motorway schemes in hand or accepted by the department and in the road programme.

To save Winchester's splendid downland background it is imperative that the scheme for an immediate cutting through Twyford Down and at high level over the water meadows and railway be abandoned. The whole project for a "high road" motorway should be changed to a low-level road, low through the downland, low over the water meadows and low under the railway at Shawford.

Such a scheme would have the advantages in time and in other respects that it would have the backing of public opinion in Winchester, which strongly favours the removal of the present by-pass and opposes the proposed cutting and high-level road.

We write as custodians of Winchester's heritage.  
Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS COVILL (Mayor of Winchester),  
TREVOR BEESON (Dean),  
The Mayor's Parlour,  
Guildhall,  
Winchester, Hampshire.  
September 30.

Giant puffballs

From Dr A. R. Date

Sir, During the last few months I have spent some time being driven between my home and the Royal Marsden Hospital, in Surrey. That part of the journey involving the M25 motorway has been of interest not only for the numerous traffic jams, but also for the sight of literally hundreds of giant puffballs occupying the central reservation of the M25 for a mile south of the junction with the M3. I have spent many happy "minutes" studying the development (some to the size of footballs) and decline (splitting and discoloration) of several generations of such fungi.

My previous recollection of seeing giant puffballs was over 30 years ago, as a youth in South Wales, when a farmworker in my village collected two (again football-sized) specimens from a local field.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN R. DATE,  
42 Marlborough Avenue,  
Ruislip, Middlesex.  
September 23.

Wire by phone

From Professor M. L. West, FBA

Sir, It is all very well your correspondents entertaining us with amusing errors resulting from telephone dictation. I have recently discovered that dictation by telephone is now the only way in which one can send an international telegram.

Yours faithfully,  
M. L. WEST,  
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,  
Department of Classics,  
Egham Hill,  
Egham, Surrey.  
September 21.

Shirt off his back

From Mr Paul Keers

Sir, Mr Gerald Leach (September 24) bemoans the fact that, because of the expense of laundering his starched dress shirt, his black onyx studs have become redundant.

However, it is perfectly acceptable nowadays to wear dress studs with a soft evening shirt.

A case, perhaps, of etiquette becoming a little less rigid.  
Yours,  
PAUL KEERS,  
34 Montagu Square, W1.

From Mr J. B. Hall  
Sir, I suspect that Mr Leach, of Bemburgh, has gone to or been taken to the cleaners.

My firm wishes to remain anonymous; however, as laundresses and cleaners own charge for laundering and starching a stiff-fronted evening shirt is £1.12, plus

Fiji thorn in Commonwealth side

From Dr C. F. Forsyth

Sir, Gerald Kaufman's article ("Keep open a bridge to Fiji", September 29) is disingenuous.

First, while Mr Kaufman makes the true point that a republic with a military government may be a member of the Commonwealth, he pointedly ignores the crucial one, viz, that, unlike the other military governments in the Commonwealth, the Queen heads the lawful government of Fiji and that Colonel Rabuka and his troops are in rebellion against her. And this means that there is a special difficulty with a republican Fiji joining the Commonwealth: how can rebels against the Queen recognise the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth with any degree of plausibility or sincerity?

Thus quite apart from the unpopularity in the Commonwealth of a Fijian government based on race, the admission of a republican Fiji to the Commonwealth would be very difficult unless the Queen pardoned the rebels and abdicated the Fijian throne.

Multiple pregnancies

From Professor David C. Anderson

Sir, Professor Ian Craft (article, September 24) implies that replacement of large numbers of embryos or eggs, with its attendant risk of high multiple pregnancy, is justified by the improved singleton pregnancy rate. Of the many problems with this incautious approach let me pick up two.

First, quite a small and inadvertent change in their technique might easily suddenly increase the incidence and size of multiple pregnancies.

Secondly, by adopting this blunderbuss approach he is simultaneously ruling out the option of enhancing the woman's singleton pregnancy rate by freezing down "spare" eggs or embryos and replacing them in her subsequent spontaneous cycles.  
Yours faithfully,  
DAVID C. ANDERSON,  
University of Manchester,  
Department of Medicine,  
Hope Hospital,  
Salford, Manchester.

Careers in TV

From Mr Martyn Lewis

Sir, David Nicholas, Editor of ITN, complains uncharacteristically (September 26) about the current movement of staff towards the BBC. He repeats an earlier allegation that ITN is a "West Point" training ground for the BBC, and asks whether a modest sum from the BBC's licence money could find its way to ITN's "hard-pressed" training budget.

I hope in his financial calculations he will take account of the many ITN presenters, reporters, producers, writers and directors who did much, if not all, of their early training courtesy of the BBC. I can think of 32 people who fall into these categories. They include the editors of two of ITN's main bulletins, ITN's deputy editor, the editor of Super-Channel News, and the new Editor of Channel

Into the unknown

From Mr G. G. J. Barker

Sir, We have just re-read the roof of St Mary's church, Wilby, which was last done in 1657, according to the plaque mounted on it. We have put a similar plaque with 1987 on it in its place.

Under the new lead I have put a copy of The Times, the local paper, the East Anglian Daily Times, our parish magazine and one or two photographs. I also wish to include a letter and would be glad of any advice that your readers could give me regarding its contents.

It will be addressed to Wilby inhabitants who are likely to be re-reading the roof in the year 2287. After much thought I could only think of saying that I hoped they were still using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and that the weather was nice!  
Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE BARKER  
(Churchwarden),  
The Rookery, Wilby,  
Eye, Suffolk.

Forgotten command

From the Chairman of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association

Sir, I write in response to the letter from Dr William Rodney (September 23). The courage and endurance of those who bore the burden of the long bombing campaign cannot and must not ever be forgotten.

Official approval has at last now been received for a memorial to be erected to the late Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain. It will take the form of a statue outside the RAF church of St Clement Dames, in Aldwych. It has no connection with the extravagant memorial proposed for dockland and recently criticized in your columns.

To the very many who share Dr Rodney's views it should be made quite clear that the statue will commemorate a victory not for Fighter Command alone but for the entire RAF and indeed for the nation as a whole.  
Yours etc,  
C. N. FOXLEY-NORRIS,  
Chairman,  
The Battle of Britain Fighter Association,  
Tumble Wood,  
Northend Common,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

War games

From his Honour Judge W'roath

Sir, I was fascinated by the letter of Mrs Cherry Robinson (September 28) on her son hardening conkers in a microwave.  
Conkers hardened in the oven in my day were known as "bakies" and banned from legitimate contests. They were easily spotted, but are they so easily identified after microwave treatment?  
Yours faithfully,  
J. H. WROATH,  
Little Barn Cottage,  
Treviskey, Portloe, Cornwall.

Hard way home for the elderly

From Mr G. L. Wensley

Sir, On Saturday, September 26, I had the misfortune to arrive at Dover harbour with a group of some 40 members of the University of the Third Age in Cambridge, all over 60, many over 70 and some over 80. We were returning from a study tour of Italy by coach.

It appears that HM Customs have some curious criteria whereby they permit some coaches to pass through customs without offloading heavy baggage whereas others are not so permitted and customers have to carry this baggage through customs and back to the coach for reloading.

For some reason, in spite of protests, we were placed in the second category. There were no porters and the 300 trolleys were manifestly inadequate for the 5,000 passengers arriving at the same time. Consequently most of our group had to carry all their luggage some 250 yards.

Officials approached, whether HM Customs or Dover Harbour Board, neither admitted responsibility nor offered any assistance.

Our treatment as returning resident "senior citizens" contrasted with our smooth passage across frontiers within the rest of Europe and it is easy to understand why our colleagues in the EEC are not always convinced that our bureaucracy sees us as part of the Community.  
Yours faithfully,  
G. L. WENSLEY  
(Director of Studies),  
University of the Third Age in Cambridge,  
8a Castle Street, Cambridge.  
September 27.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 2 1840

Concern for the state of Britain's defences was expressed in two letters of strongly contrasting styles.

A VISIT TO THE NAVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir - If you please to tell the public that me and my wife have found out that things is not as they should be, we have left Chapside, and went down by railway to Southampton a few days past for a little sea air, and to make an incursion to the Isle of Wight [sic], and my wife, whose fond of these things, said, "We'll look at Her Majesty's vessels, for I'll never believe that there's not plenty of 'em all ready, when (my wife reads politics) I see that the French is at their old work abusing John Bull, who wants to be quiet, and then there's Mahomet Hally up in Egypt, that old tyrant, giving himself airs, he won't be coaxed." - "My dear," says I, "be thankful, we've lots of ships." Then we took a boat; says my wife to the waterman, "What have we got to defend ourselves?" - "Ma'am, I'll show you a fine ship at Spithead, the Vain Guard, 80." Away he rows; there was nothing to be seen but a Dutchman. "Ha," says the waterman, "that's a thousand pities; she's gone to the Straits." - "What?" says my wife, "Is there nothing? Why, what's to become of us? The Vain Guard gone and left us here? Why Spithead, as I used when I was a girl to see so beautiful, is as bare as my hand. There's nothing! The French is coming. The Ministers know nothing about it, rely upon it. They would not put up with such things; write up directly and give information. I'll tell you what to say, that I will this will never do. I'll petition Parliament, that I will." - Please to tell us, Sir, what's to be done?  
Your most humble servant,  
TIMOTHY STAVTAVE,  
Chapside, Sept. 10, 1840.

THE NAVAL ARSENAL AT PEMBROKE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, - In your leader on Friday last you ably pointed out the inefficiently protected state of our naval arsenal generally, for of their safety it may be truly said, "woman et praeterea quid". But Sir, whatever may be the case with others, Pembroke is still more lamentably neglected. Would you believe it, Sir, that its only defence consists in a fort constructed close to the water's edge, exposed to attacks from all the adjacent heights, and with but some ten or twelve worn-out artillerymen to work its guns? It is true there is a company (mark the force) of marines to mount guard - a sergeant's guard - in the dockyard; still, it cannot be expected, let their gallantry be ever so acknowledged, "per mare, per terram", that such an insignificant number could prove of any benefit in protecting an arsenal of Pembroke's magnitude. The authorities must either think the place invulnerable or not worth the expense of protection. There is not so much as a small cruiser on the station - not even the appearance of a guardship, as at other ports...  
Your insertion of these hastily-written remarks cannot fail to do good, and will greatly oblige, Sir, yours, obediently,  
Sept. 29. AN OBSERVER.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
October 1: By command of The Queen, the Lord Beaverbrook (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the arrival of the Governor-General of Australia and Lady Stephen, and welcomed their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
October 1: The Princess of Wales this evening attended a Reception in aid of the International Spinal Research Trust at Grosvenor Hall, London EC2.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
October 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Glasgow and was received on arrival at Glasgow Airport by the Lord Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (The Right Hon Robert Gray, The Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, President of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Fashion Show held in aid of the Society at the Albany Hotel, Glasgow.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

**The Princess Margaret**  
Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Hon Mrs Wills.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
October 1: The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Educational Corps, today visited the Garrison at Caister.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Mrs Euan MacQuodale, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

**YORK HOUSE**  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
October 1: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, today visited the Inter-Airport Exhibition and Jaguar (Deutschland) in Frankfurt, West Germany.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Captain Michael Campbell-Lamer.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the National Society for Cancer Relief, today attended the launch of the West Berkshire Macmillan Cancer Care Appeal at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, Berkshire.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

### Dinners

**Horners' Company**  
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, accompanied by the Sheriff and their ladies, attended the annual dinner of the Horners' Company held yesterday at the Mansion House.

Mr Basil Becker, Master, presided, and the Lord Mayor, Mr David White and Sir Brian Rix, Secretary-General of Mencap, also spoke.

**Law Society and Bar Council**  
Mr Derek Bradbeer, President of the Law Society, and Mr Peter Scott, QC, Chairman of the Bar Council, gave a dinner last night at Law Society's Hall, to mark the opening of the legal year, on behalf of the English legal profession in honour of their colleagues from Canada, the United States, Europe and other United Kingdom jurisdictions, and representatives of the Court of Justice of the European Community and the European Court of Human Rights.

**Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, QC**  
Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, QC, was host at a dinner held at the House of Lords on September 29, for the Society of Environmental Engineers, to entertain the members of the Committee of European Environmental Engineering Societies. The speakers included Sir Monty Finniston, president, Mr H.M.W. Gibbons, secretary of the society, and P. Lemann, Chairman of CEEES.

**Company of Information Technologists**  
The Master, Mr Barney Gibbons, presided at the inaugural dinner of the Company of Information Technologists held last night at Saddlers' Hall in the City of London. The toast to the guests was proposed by Lord Weinstock and Sir Eric Sharp responded. At the meeting held before the dinner, Mr John Fairclough was elected Senior Warden and Mr Alderman and Sheriff Brian Jenkins was elected Junior Warden for the year to September 1988.

The new company's aim is to promote investment in information technology and to promote education and training for the skills of the future.

**Institution of Mechanical Engineers**  
Professor H. Peter Jost, Vice-President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, was host at a dinner held last night at Birdcage Walk in honour of the Soviet Tribology delegation consisting of Academician Professor V.A. Belyi, Vice-President of the Belorussian Academy of Sciences, and the Ukrainian A. Swiridenko, Director of the Institute of Mechanics, Gomel, and Dr N.K. Myshkin.

### Marriages

**Dr M.K. Power and Dr C.R. Sinnott**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 19, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hampton, between Dr Michael Power, youngest son of the late Mr John Power and Mrs Alice Power, of Plymouth, and Dr Claire Sinnott, daughter of Dr Colin and Mrs Audrey Sinnott, of Hampton, Middlesex. Prebendary J.A. Rogers officiated.

**Mr A.J.S. Ross and Miss E.F. Hart**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Michael and All Angels, Maiden, Kent, of Mr Andrew Ross, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Ross, of Postern House, Olfham, Kent, and Miss Elizabeth Frances Hart, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hart, of Parke Farm House, Tenenden, Kent. The Bishop of Tonbridge officiated, assisted by the Rev Julian Wale.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Susie Ross, Miss Caroline Hartley and Hannah Sparks. Mr Jonathan Ray was best man.

A reception was held at Target Farm, and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya.

**Mr B.J. Straghan and Miss N.W. Gazzard**  
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 26, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, between Mr Brian Jonathan Straghan, son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Straghan, of Longdon Park, Chester le Street, Co Durham, and Miss Naomi Willis Gazzard, younger daughter of Major and Mrs B.J.A. Gazzard, of South Street, Durham City. Canon John Oates officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Rachel Harris and Jennifer Truman. Mr Joe Hardy was best man.

A reception was held at Stationers' Hall and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

### Appointments

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has announced the following appointments, effective from October 1:

**Mr D.A. Hadley** to be Deputy Secretary (Agricultural Commodities) in succession to Mr Derek Andrews.

**Mr R.J.D. Carden** to be promoted to Under Secretary (European and External Relations Group), in succession to Mr Hadley.

**University news**  
**College head appointed**  
Professor Christopher Zeeman, FRS, Director of the Mathematical Research Centre at the University of Warwick, has been appointed Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, from September next year. He will succeed Sir Geoffrey Warnock, who is to retire after 17 years as principal.

**St Andrews**  
Dr Brian Main, reader in economics at Edinburgh University, has taken up the chair of economics at St Andrews. He succeeds Professor Peter Robson.

Dr Paul Gifford has been appointed to the Buchanan chair of French from

### Clockmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Clockmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr P.M. Vine; Senior Warden, Lord Muriel of Lindisfarne; Junior Warden, Mr A.W. Henn; Junior Warden, Mr M.J. Prince.

**Old Cliftonian Society**  
Old Cliftonians resident in the United Kingdom who have not yet received the annual magazine are asked to communicate with the secretary at school.

## SOOTHEY'S

### COUNTRY HOUSE SALES

#### Wilsford Manor, Salisbury, Wiltshire

THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE THE HON. STEPHEN TENNANT

The contents of Wilsford Manor will be sold on

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October 1987 at 10.30am and 2pm each day

On view at Wilsford: Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th and Monday 12th October 10am to 5pm each day

Catalogue: £10 Admits two to view and sale

Telephone during view, sale and delivery days Amesbury (0980) 23858

Enquiries: Christopher King (Billingshurst) and George Bailey (London)

Sotheby's, Summers Place, near Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9AD

Telephone: (040381) 3933 Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA

Telephone: (01) 493 8080

### Science report

## Wet welcome for wildfowl

By Gareth How Davies

When conservationists lament the loss of habitat, they are often talking of land which was artificially created in a simpler agricultural age.

In an experiment on grazing land on the Kent coast, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has recreated something of the primitive aspect of wetland which would have been recognized.

Its work in manipulating the level of flood water on its nature reserve at Elmley, on the Isle of Sheppey, has led to a dramatic increase in the numbers of breeding and wintering wildfowl on land whose hydrology had been affected by recent agricultural improvement.

In 10 years one species, wigeon, has increased 70 fold. National rarities such as avocet and pintail have been tempted back.

Agricultural changes since the Second World War, particularly conversion to arable farming, have reduced the amount of grazing marsh in north Kent from 14,750 hectares in 1935 to 7,450 hectares by 1982. The rate of loss has slowed, but continued drainage could still lead to the

disappearance of all grazing marsh in north Kent within 25 years.

In 1974 the RSPB bought 1,362 hectares of land at Elmley, part of a site of special scientific interest in the north Kent marshes which stretch from Dartford on the Thames estuary to the River Swale, just north of Faversham.

The RSPB tried various ways to create more wet areas and retain winter flood water longer on its reserve to encourage its winter wildfowl and wader populations.

It first flooded part of the land by cutting off drainage channels. Floodwater remained until the following spring, with significant increases in the numbers of breeding birds, but by the summer all water had drained away.

In the next winter it enlarged the flooded area by pumping in water, with further immediate benefit to birds. The flood remained throughout the summer, with water-logged clay making a perfect waterproof seal.

But the pumps could not compensate for the loss of water in the summer due to evaporation and the ensuing

dry winter. Finally the RSPB was the cooperation of the local inland drainage board which diverted waters into a natural reservoir, a channel in the reserve capable of holding 20 million gallons of water. With this guaranteed supply of water the future of the flooded area is assured.

The RSPB now has two reservoirs and with controlled flooding can create a mixture of both wet and dry grazing, with two permanently flooded areas. There has been a notable increase in both the number and diversity of wildfowl and wading birds on the reserve, largely as a result of the management work.

Breeding birds new to the reserve include greylag and Canada geese, gadwall and tufted duck, wigeon, black-tailed godwit, and avocet.

Sample counts of wintering birds in 1984/85, on the completion of the scheme, compared to 1974/75 included 22,000 wigeon (300 in 1974/75), 2,345 redshank (800), 180 snipe (10) and 423 black-tailed godwit. There are also significant increases in the numbers of curlew, snipe, and dunlin.

Source: RSPB Conservation Review, 1987.

## Havers misses parade



The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, leading the procession from the annual service at Westminster Abbey to mark the start of the legal year yesterday. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Havers, who would normally have headed the procession, is in hospital undergoing tests after feeling unwell recently. The swearing in of two new judges was postponed.

### Sale room

## Money maketh money

By Our Art Market Correspondent

A good way to make money is to sell money, judging by the results of auctions at Christie's and Sotheby's yesterday. But, as is often the case when making money, it can involve an element of gamble.

Christie's confined themselves to banknotes, taking a risk by selling a stack of currency smuggled out of Iran eight months ago by its owner, Mr Ebrahim Abaie.

"There could be a big home market when the Shah was in power," said Christie's expert, Mr Raymond Sarcroft-Baker, "but it is become rather thin today."

Dating from the early 1900s, the notes would be worth about £500 if they were possible to spend today. In the event they made £43,100 at auction, selling to two or three major buyers, who included an Iranian collector. Top prices among the 88 lots were £4,840 (including buyer's premium) for 100 Tomans dated 1913, and £4,180 for a set dated 1908.

Over at Sotheby's, the money-spinner in its general coin and medal sale was a collection of a similar nature: 810 church communion tokens, dating from the 17th to 19th century.

Bought in bulk like the little dished used in Italian telephone boxes, they were surrendered in turn by parishioners at Mass. The collection, which had the added interest of the occasional floral pattern and even biographical details about a married priest, sold for £4,620 (estimate £800 to £1,200) to the coin dealers, Spink.

Christie's South Kensington continued to blend items from Nidd Hall, Yorkshire, with their specialist sales, achieving £80,151 on Wednesday afternoon for the furniture, and the surprising price of £56,000 for a 75-note pneumatic orchestra, which had been estimated at £25,000 to £70,000. The new owner is Kenneth Goldman, from America, spent a further £935 to buy the music rolls to go with it.

Sotheby's also sold a Fijian banknote bearing the image of King Kakobau, the cannibal king, who was not averse to cooking his relatives in order to enjoy what he euphemistically called "long pie". Estimated at £600 to £800, the banknote fetched £550.

**Birthdays today**  
Marshal of the RAF Sir Dermot Boyd, 83; Mr Trevor Brooking, footballer, 39; Lord Davies, 47; Lord Justice Dillon, 62; Professor Sir Robin Duthie, chairman, Scottish Development Agency, 59; Mr Peter Frank, pianist, 52; Professor R.H. Graveson, QC, Professor of Law, Victoria International Law, 76; Mr Graham Greene, OM, CH, author, 83; Mr Eric Hosking, photographer and ornithologist, 78; Lieutenant-Colonel G.W.F. Luttrell, Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, 68; Miss Jan Morris, writer, 61; Mr Vivian Ridler, former Printer to Oxford University, 74; Mr Stuart Rose, former design adviser, The Post Office, 76; the Most Rev Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, 66; Mr Justice Scott, 53; Sir Roger Squire, 36; Vice-Admiral Sir John Tupper, 59; Lord Todd, OM, 88; Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Tuttle, 81; Professor J.H. Whitfield, Professor of Italian Language and Literature, 81; Lieutenant-Colonel E.C.T. Wilson, VC, 75.

**Today's royal engagements**  
Princess Margaret will visit Montrose Harbour at 2.30 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Montrose Harbour Trust.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the court ladies' dinner given by the Company of Gold and Silver Wire Drawers at Brewers' Hall at 7.40.

The Duke of Kent will attend a concert given by the "English Concert" at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, at 7.55.

The Duchess of Kent will visit Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering in Harrogate, Cumbria, at 11.40.

Mr L.N. Whitehead and Miss L. Wolf will be present at the annual dinner of the D.S. Whitehead of Ipswich, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, and Leach, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Wolf, of San Paulo, Brazil.

Mr D.M.G. Watson and Miss M.O. Randall will be present at the annual dinner of the D.S. Watson and Dr Barbara Watson, of Winchester, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.L.M. Randall, of Stutton, Suffolk.

Mr L.N. Whitehead and Miss L. Wolf will be present at the annual dinner of the D.S. Whitehead of Ipswich, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, and Leach, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Wolf, of San Paulo, Brazil.

### OBITUARY

## SIR GEOFFREY JACKSON

### Stoical guerrilla hostage

Sir Geoffrey Jackson, KCMG, British Ambassador to Uruguay, who was held prisoner by the Tupamaros guerrillas for eight months in 1971, died yesterday. He was 72.

A man of deep convictions, warmth and self-discipline, he was able to survive his confinement and emerge at the end of it with his spirits, sanity and health intact. He believed passionately in the need to uphold what he called "the paper-thin wall of law and order", and he captivously reminded his captors that, although he was shut up in a cage, he was still the British ambassador.

For him, therefore, this cage, with its filthy mattress and poor ventilation, was the British embassy, and from it Jackson continued to regard himself as his country's representative.

Geoffrey Holt Seymour Jackson was born on March 4, 1915. He was educated at Bolton School and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He entered the Foreign Service in 1937, and served as vice-consul in Beirut, Cairo, and in Baghdad; in 1946, he was acting consul-general in Lima.

He then spent time in Bogotá (1946 to 1950) and Bern (1954-6) before being appointed ambassador to Honduras in 1957, where he remained for the next three years.

Then, in 1960, he was posted to Seattle, before going, in 1965, as minister (commercial), to Toronto.

From there it was south to Uruguay - and to adventures unforeseen. On the morning of January 8, 1971, Jackson's chauffeur-driven Daimler was intercepted on the streets of Montevideo by two vehicles believed to be carrying Tupamaros' left-wing urban guerrillas. The chauffeur, along with embassy staff in a following car, were all beaten unconscious. Jackson was spirited away by his captors.

He spent the next eight months in a period of recuperation. Jackson made it clear that he was keen to get back into harness. What he received was a post in the Department of Trade and Industry's export planning and development division. He retired from the diplomatic service soon afterwards. He was awarded compensation by the Foreign Office for his ordeal.

In retirement he spent a year or two as chairman of a BBC advisory group looking at the "social effects" of television.

He married, in 1939, Patricia Delany. She survives him with their son.

## DR MARGARET MANN PHILLIPS

Dr Margaret Mann Phillips, a leading scholar of Renaissance literature and history, and one of the world's authorities on Erasmus, died on September 18. She was 81.

Margaret Mann Phillips was born on January 23, 1906, a clergyman's daughter. She was educated at home, at York College for Girls, and at Somerville College, Oxford, where she took a First in French.

In 1934, she was awarded a doctorate by Paris University; her thesis was published as *Erasmus et les débuts de la Réforme Française*.

Two years later she was elected fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, where she was director of studies and lecturer in French until 1945, when she resigned to devote more time to her family.

In 1949, she published *Erasmus and the Northern Renaissance*, a work which remains the essential introduction to Erasmus and his work for English-speaking readers.

She returned to teaching in the late 1950s, and from 1964 to 1968, was Reader in French at King's College, London. After retiring she continued to teach at University College London and at the Warburg Institute. In 1979 she was awarded an Oxford D.Lit.

Her work on Erasmus continued with the publication, in 1964, of *The Adages of Erasmus: A Study with Translations*.

This meticulous and illuminating study of the evolution of Erasmus's *Adagia* represents textual scholarship at its best, as do her study and translation of Erasmus's potential dialogue *Andrzejewski*, published in 1978 in the *Toronto Collected Works of Erasmus*.

Dr Phillips also wrote on such figures as Thomas More, Marguerite de Navarre, and Montaigne, and she also published a much-admired evocation of her childhood, *Within the City Wall*.

A scholar of exceptional learning and wisdom, Margaret Mann Phillips was also a teacher of great warmth and modesty who inspired two generations of students with her love of the French and Latin literature of the Renaissance.

She married, in 1940, Charles William Phillips, archaeologist and excavator of Sutton Hoo. He died in 1985, but she had the consolation of seeing his autobiography, *My Life in Archaeology*, through the press shortly before her own death. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

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He also convened a similar SPG study of private bill procedure in the 1980s which was published anonymously in *Public Law* in 1981.

At the time of his death he was a member of the working party considering the future form of the Ford Lists of Parliamentary Papers, a vital source for legislative scholars.

He was, for many years, chief examiner with the Local Government Training Board. In retirement, he continued to be active in the Hansard Society and the Study of Parliament Group.

He married Olive Pleas in 1954. They had two daughters.

Mr David Miller, jnr., who died on September 30, at the age of 81, was, during the 1950s, the first "Marlboro man" - that rugged-looking cowboy astride a horse who graced the bill-board advertisements for Marlboro cigarettes.

His real job, however, was far from the range; he was an advertising executive in New York City. He also did some modelling for fashion magazines.

"He hated horses," his wife, Maria, explained. "He got all dressed up like a cowboy. This wasn't his job. He did it just for fun."

months and one day in captivity. The British Government refused to bargain for his release. Such snippets that emerged indicated that he was coping with "traditional British pluck". It was to his advantage that he spoke Spanish, and was kept well supplied with reading matter.

Jackson was released on September 9 of that year. "I am feeling well," he told a priest who found him standing in front of a Capuchin church in a northern suburb of Montevideo.

Days earlier over 100 Tupamaros guerrillas had escaped from a prison in the city; Jackson's captors felt that his further incarceration served no useful purpose.

During his captivity, he wrote a number of short stories about imaginary creatures, based on animals he had come across on his various postings. Among them was, notably, the left-beaked overbird which confused its mate by building their house the wrong way round. *The Overbird and Some Others* was published in 1972.

In the following year came *People's Prison*, a detailed, often amusing, account of his capture, detention, and dealings with his captors. A later book, *Concise Diplomacy: The Ambassador's Role in the World Today* (1981), is a good-humoured discussion of life in the service.

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## THE ARTS

## Worlds apart

"Hyper-reality" is better than reality for people in shopping malls, explained one of the exponents of modern American culture cut into the super-slick framing of Equinox's disturbingly hilarious documentary *Maltime* (C4) to voice some civilizing sanity amid the cooed, disinfected bedlam of these manufactured environments. In *This Week's The Battle for the Bottom* (ITV), about the new threat of The

## TELEVISION

Star in the topless war of the tabloids, there was also a suggestion from some former journalists on the paper at least that reality is not always good enough for the new editorial regime.

Admittedly, the fragrant truth does not always perfume every pore of *The Star's* rivals or superiors. Also, the creakiness of the lead story about the three-in-a-bed pop group seemed as much to do with the publicity-seeking singers as convenient gullibility by the paper; and even if the accusations of the ex-agony auntie (denied by the editor Mike Gabbert) that she was asked to conjure up titillating readers' letters, he would not be the first newspaperman to give reality a nudge-nudge in a required direction.

But what was remarkable about both programmes was that reality needed so little nudging to be more "hyper" than fanciful myths about "sexploitation" journalism or the mad, mad world of modern American materialism. Gabbert, looked too good to be true as he oozed clichéd details of smut and "get 'em off" enthusiasms, a clumsy rumormongering around his bald pate.

George Haggerty brilliantly and appropriately stylized *Maltime* with an advertising chic aesthetic, but his composed images were repeatedly upstaged by his characters: Credit-card junkies, mall rats, zombies, video nymphs and frustrated housewives.

Andrew Hislop

The Met starts its new season to a background of disturbing rumours, reports James R. Oestreich

## Echoes of discord

## OPERA

Otello/Ariadne auf Naxos  
The Met, New York

It seems like just yesterday -- it was last year -- that we were hailing the ultimate ascendancy of James Levine at the Metropolitan Opera, the newly created post of artistic director. Now, as rumours persist that Levine's personal life does not always measure up to the proprieties demanded by such a prominent and prestigious charge, we find that Bruce Crawford, in his second year as the company's general manager, not only holds administrative sway, but will take an increasing hand in artistic decisions.

Even *The New York Times* has seen fit to tie a discussion of the changing "managerial balance" to "conflicting rumours about Levine's private life and an imminent resignation." In responding, Levine summons the head of Columbia Artists Management as character witness: "Ron Wilford says it's because people can't believe the real story that I'm too good to be true." But Crawford has already cancelled plans for a costly blockbuster staging of *Aida* by Franco Zeffirelli scheduled to be unveiled next year and to open the 1989 season.

Nonetheless the opening of this season found Levine at his accustomed post in the pit, leading a revival of Zeffirelli's production of *Otello* from 1977. With his relish for vigour and verve, Levine has always had good success with the work, and the first night proved no exception. If anything, his ability to sustain dramatic suspense and musical line has grown through the years as has his command of this chorus and orchestra. All of which made for a sturdy musical framework.

Plácido Domingo, equally familiar as a season opener, this eighth time at the Met leaves him with Giovanni Martinelli, second only to Arturo, at seventeen, and equally sturdy musically took the title role. Domingo's *Otello* is of course, a familiar commodity, particularly of late, and to say that he was in fine vocal form pretty well covers the ground. Through sheerly musical means, he built a convincing, often gripping portrayal; he has never been a great



Kiri Te Kanawa, as Desdemona, and Plácido Domingo, as Otello, in Act 11

dramatic actor, though he was almost made to seem one by this evening's surroundings. Kiri Te Kanawa, as Desdemona, did much to efface the distasteful impression she made last year in the new *Fledermaus*, where, at least at the first performance, she sang poorly and seemed an altogether unwilling participant (understandable though that may have been to Otto Schenk's production); here, she produced a lovely, if often frail, tone and showed some attempt at dramatic involvement yet still conveyed a distracted, almost vacant air.

The first of many early-season

substitutions at the Met. Silvano Carroli filled in for Renato Bruson as Iago. Vocally, what main force could accomplish, he achieved. But alas, even the admirable solidity of his full tone, unenlivened by subtlety, colour, or variety, palled with time.

And his hectoring sound meshed only too well with a loutish stage manner that undercut his impressive stature.

Nor did Fabrizio Melano's stage direction help, with all the business involving the handkerchief almost comically overdrawn; this, of all

props, surely no one could fail to notice. Well, opening nights at this house are more for glitter than for dramatic substance anyway, and one could at least content oneself with the solid musical substance Levine and Domingo provided.

The season really sprang to full, vibrant life on the third evening with a revival of the Bodo Igges production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Nothing spectacular, mind you, just that rarest of commodities in New York these days: A good, old-fashioned night at the opera, with a couple of stellar performances and a couple less than stellar, but nowhere cause for embarrassment.

And the brightest stars were all Americans. With Jessye Norman's stately Prima Donna and Kathleen Battle's winsome Zerbinetta, only a churl could find fault (a slight unevenness in pianissimo singing around the break from the former, perhaps, an altitudinous note or two not quite tamed by the latter). Individual performances of the highest order, these were all the more impressive in the way they played off each other. Norman, a veritable force of nature, Battle, an irresistible *objet d'artifice*. Seldom can these roles have been better served in combination. And Tatiana Troyanos fitted into the mix well as the Composer.

The Canadian tenor Paul Frey, in his Met debut, sang accurately and powerfully as Bacchus, though his tone proved slightly cloudy and he lacked an easy ring. Hermann Prey, despite an occasional near-bellow, played a servicable Music Master.

James Levine conducted, attired in blue polo shirt and purple velvet for the *Prologue*, formal garb for the *Opera*. Ensemble and tuning were not perfect, but the playing was mostly wonderful, with a lovely sheen to the strings and a nice solidity to the woodwinds. The *Prologue*, whose beginning stole in upon the audience, came together gradually but inexorably; by its end, the proceedings had gathered such momentum and developed such a convincing dramatic flow that -- while one knew full well that one's *Silfisch* would grow weak in the later stages -- the interval came as a distinctly unwelcome intrusion. Still, it took no time at all for Norman's *Ariadne* to pick up the thread and draw one right back in.

Now this is the sort of thing that can make one greet a new season with hearty enthusiasm. A joy.



Close encounter: James Green (Roland) with Hazel Douglas

## Posing problem

## THEATRE

The Prospero Suite  
Cheltenham

A Frank Matcham house, resplendently restored and enlarged three years ago, the Everyman is a nice place to spend an evening, though not at the price of sitting through this preposterous piece by Warner Brown.

Set in a stonely geometric interior (by Chris Crosswell) suggesting an Eric Gill chapel of repose rather than a Manhattan hotel suite, it concerns the professional come-back of a middle-aged Prospero considered by some -- including himself -- to be the world's greatest film director. Fifteen years ago, in this same room, poor Roland had one of his masterpieces rudely mauled by a lady critic, whereupon he vanished into retirement. But now he has regained bankable fame with a new picture -- thanks to the encouragement of his erstwhile enemy who has cast her own next role as his bed partner and screen writer.

Powerful as American critics may be, it would be hard to outdo those events for

stapifying implausibility. It is sometime before they are unveiled to the spectator, as Mr Brown has organised his first act as an awed conversation piece between Roland's little court circle, while the hero himself walks among them in a ghostly follow-up, saying how much he would like to be there. Is he dead? No. He is in a transatlantic plane, arriving one day late simply to screw up into a state of suspense.

Until he arrives, conversation centres on the past, describing people we never met, the respective merits of non-existent films, and Roland's God-like qualities: Which the man himself modestly shrugs off as too much to live up to. For a moment, the play engages with something real, in the idea of a man of talent who is compelled by his profession to adopt an unnatural pose. But as Roland's talent has to be taken entirely on trust, the idea swiftly expires leaving behind nothing but a posuer.

In John Doyle's production he is played by James Greene, whose manner and appearance suggest an unctuously commiserating vicar. And the tone of the whole show is sluggish and dispirited for a piece oozing with malice.

Irving Wardle

## Through memory by roller skate

The Rink  
Forum,  
Wythenshawe

In this 1984 Kander and Ebb musical the central roles are a blushing mother and her daughter, played on Broadway by Chita Rivera and Liza Minnelli. There was a father but he mooched off in a James Dean sort of way after the Korean war, and Angel, the daughter, landed a flower-power mate but he faded with the Sixties.

The show is set in 1978 with Angel returning to the roller skating rink built by her Italian grandpa and now about to be sold by Anna, her ma, for hard cash and a trip to Rome. But the sassy rink, of course, is the site of all Angel's memories, and thereafter the show goes floating into the past and back, recalling glittering days gone by against the foreground of fractious scenes between pleasure-hunting mother and father-missing child.

Such elements as the harsh talk and the mugging of Anna by three decoratively ragged scumbags are unusual in a

musical; and Angel and Anna share the fastest-acting joint on record as they begin, in the Broadway custom, to find they are not so different after all. Josephine Blake gives Anna attack and the feet stride, arms up, me against-the-word pugnacity the role requires but the character remains far from sympathetic. Diane Langton's stocky little Angel has an appealingly troubled air and, when circumstances allow, a perky toughness.

What gives the show real enchantment is the group of six demolition workers who double as all the men in the ice-rink's past, and the women too, moustaches and muscles notwithstanding. Their show-stopping pastiche of a *Hello Dolly* number, and the effervescent skating dance zipping round the hazards of the stage -- both joyously choreographed by Paul Kerryson -- would be welcome at twice the length.

Jeremy Kingston

## Larry the glam

## ROCK

Cameo  
Wembley Arena

In a supremely tacky entrance that must have had Screamin' Jay Hawkins turning in his grave, so to speak, Larry Blackmon emerged from a huge upright silver coffin. Fully toolled up in rippling black tights, slinky rubber jerkin and that copious, he launched into "Alligator Woman", a song with the typically plaintive refrain "Your big behind/it makes me blind".

Unfortunately his efforts and those of the 11 other musicians on stage, were all but lost in a mire of unbalanced sound and intrusive feedback noise, which was tied up as the show went on but was never satisfactorily adjusted overall.

Such a daft, neo-heavy metal staging ploy was indicative of Blackmon's lung-

established strategy of covering as many bases as possible in his mission to entertain the ranks of 'comeo convers, which have swollen dramatically since last year's engaging three-chord wonder, "Word 'P". This brief performance incorporated elements of funk, rap, go, go, hip hop, soul and "black rock 'n' roll" all bundled together in a roller-coaster succession of rapid segues and perpetual dancing manoeuvres.

Inevitably, such a varied approach had its ups and downs. Blackmon, who started out as the drummer with the group in his native Atlanta, took over Bruce Carter's kit while the guitarist Charlie Singleton sang a horrible heavy rock dirge called "Secrets Of Time".

But the bad bits never lasted long, as the action proceeded in the fast moving traditions of a modern revue show, though without the spit and polish of a Prince or James Brown gig.

David Sinclair

## Pining for Klaus

## CONCERT

LPO/Vonk  
Festival Hall

Klaus Tennstedt's sad departure, as their music director and as conductor of their opening concert this season, has obviously and with good reason left the London Philharmonic feeling out of sorts: it was understandable that their performance of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony should have been a disappointment, but perhaps worrying that it should have been a disappointment on this level.

The violins sounded severely stretched above the stage; the flutes were breathy and the woodwind tone as a whole weak; the brass, unfocused and unchecked, was much more often coarse than exalted.

But still more damaging than the crudity of sound was the slackness of ensemble and, partly as a consequence of

this, the broken-backed form. Right from the start, where the monumental character of the cello theme was severely compromised by the irretrievably out-of-step contributions from horn and clarinet, the textural maelstrom worked against any Brucknerian momentum. Nor did it help that Hans Vonk, the replacement conductor, ended almost every short section with a ritardando and so with a sense of completion.

Occasionally, still worse, the upbeat of a new section would be misinterpreted as a down beat to the music just ending and so continuity would be further set at risk.

Rosamund Pownall, singing in the Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan*, also failed to cover herself with glory, perhaps under-stimulated by an orchestra unprepared for beauty of sound, length of line or truthfulness of volume.

She provided momentary openings of radiance on the longest notes, but otherwise she appeared too concerned to dip her chin and control a threatening harshness. This was not facile breathing the music from within her, but rather someone being dragged along somewhat unwillingly in its displeasingly raucous wake.

Paul Griffiths

## A duet for two sword fighters

## BALLET

Royal Thai  
Dancers  
Sadler's Wells

Much the most popular number in the programme by the Royal Thai dancers and musicians at Sadler's Wells this week and next is *Sword Fighting*. The two men start off with swords, one in each hand, and very lethal looking they are, too: Metal blades with a slight curve to them, long handles as a counter-weight, and gripped only just above the blade so that they can be rotated like a drum majorette's baton, or casually sliced through the air, narrowly missing the opponent's head.

After some ritual confrontations and stylized threats, they set to with these implements in a well arranged routine, which almost looks real. Then one sword after another is knocked out of an opponent's grasp, and one of the men decides to equip himself instead with a long staff. A little

later the other changes weapons and takes up a pair of wooden implements which are worn along the forearm and used somewhat like clubs.

In spite of this array of weaponry, the injuries which they pretend to suffer are mainly administered by kicks to various uncomfortable parts of the anatomy. From the threatening start the item turns into a comic number as the pair of them mime growing discomfort and exhaustion, leading to a finish where the winner sinks down almost simultaneously with the loser, and in just as much agony.

The rest of the programme relies on quaintness for its appeal: Extremely simple dance routines based on traditional forms but made "up to date and more attractive". I wonder. Elaborate costumes with pagoda head-dresses are the chief attraction. To open with episodes from a long dance drama is probably a mistake; the acting is perfunctory, lacking the vividness of equivalent Indian theatre, and the action incomprehensible without long programme notes.

John Percival

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# Ridley plans fast track scheme to abolish rates

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

New plans under which low-spending councils, most of them Conservative-controlled, could by-pass the phasing-in period for the community charge are being prepared by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Ridley, who in July fought a fierce but unsuccessful battle in Cabinet against the four-year phasing-in period, is examining a number of options that would allow some councils to side-step it. The front-runner is a scheme under which authorities whose rate income fell below a certain level before the four years was up could scrap rates and switch straight to the community charge.

The higher the Government set the threshold, the sooner councils could switch over. The result would be a patchwork effect across the country with some high-spending councils operating the dual system while others had only the community charge.

Mr Ridley will need Cabinet agreement for his plans and stiff resistance is likely from the Treasury, which wants to prolong the rating system.

However he can count on substantial support from Conservative councillors in the regions who are resolutely opposed to the phasing-in period.

A principal reason for the phasing-in period was to avoid sudden huge increases for those in high-spending, predominantly Labour council areas. In Camden, north London, for example, each

adult would pay a community charge of £782, and in Hackney, east London, £691.

Low-spending Tory councils argue that the phasing-in period will cause them substantial extra costs and work. Running a rating system and the community charge simultaneously would involve councils in sending out millions of extra bills and in taking on extra administrative staff.

A senior source within the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils said last night: "The Government has got a mandate and therefore it is our job to help introduce the community charge. However we have to put down a very clear warning that the phasing system is most unsatisfactory and very expensive. Our view is that if we have to have a community charge then let's get the transition period over as quickly as possible."

The phasing-in period is due to begin in 1990 in England, though in Scotland and Wales the community charge is to be introduced in a single instalment. Legislation is expected to be presented to Parliament in November.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, yesterday signalled the start of the next stage in the campaign to introduce the community charge by challenging Labour to say how it would replace rates.

At next week's Tory conference Mr Ridley will launch a scathing attack on Labour's apparent inability to produce a preferable alternative.

# Showing the flag for Britannia



Even the wildlife was showing the flag when the Duchess of York visited a sugar factory in Mauritius on the last day of the official visit by the Duke and Duchess. The staff had pasted a Union Flag on to the shell of the resident tortoise to the obvious delight of the visitors. The factory was in the appropriately named town of Britannia.

## Conference sketch

# Fighting words in the war for peace

"Is Neil to be fixed by these guys?" In Parliament, Mr Ian Dwyer speaks like a man whose tongue has been dipped in the prose of *The Exon College Chronicle*, circa 1860. But in the less, shall we say, civilized environs of the Labour Party Conference he adopts a more street-wise lingo. It is just a shame that the street he chooses should be in Tombstone Gulch.

He was referring to those he described as "the so-called security services", but were he to widen the circumference of his circle of conspiracies only slightly, he might also have included the other guys who were intent on fixing Neil — the Big Bad Unilateralist Gang. Tired of taking pot-shots at the Government, they were out to get the real two-timing Mr Big.

A delegate with horn-rimmed glasses and a small moustache kicked off the unilateralist debate. "When we win the next General Election — and we will — he began, using the catchphrase that has cropped up every few minutes during this conference, "... we will be facing a very different world than we do today". On the platform, Mr Kinnock seemed to breathe easily for this has been his favourite cause for dozing on the party's clean white unilateralist pad.

But the man with the small moustache then unbuttoned the cloak of his girth to reveal a well-stocked shoulder-holster beneath. "Neil," he said, "always a bad sign — Neil, when you become leader and long before, you made statements affirming your commitment to unilateralism. I urge you to reaffirm that commitment."

Neil looked statesmanlike, his preferred posture when feeling sheepish. Time was running out for the man with the small moustache, so he quickly added: "I beg you not to abdicate the policy on which we won the election". As he returned to his seat, the rest of the delegates looked a trifle awkward. Who would be man enough to tell him the awful news?

Mr Eric Hammond, of course, Mr Hammond loves being man enough to deliver awful news; indeed, it is his prime enjoyment in life. Not for him the shilly-shally; were he a hospital visitor, he would bring comfort to the

afflicted by dressing in black, lustily swinging his thurible and singing "Abide With Me" at the top of his voice. Following in the long tradition of the great movement, his appearance at the rostrum was greeted with boos and hisses.

Mr Hammond suggested controversially that they had lost the election. He then produced figures from a poll of his own union to suggest that his members wouldn't say no to a bomb or two. Wagging his finger in the air he said: "You will not quickly be forgiven if you continue your error!"

The unnerving aspect of Mr Hammond is that, among delegates whose voices tend to start at a screech and escalate towards the ear-piercing, he remains dull and monotone throughout. "Make the choice between permanent protest and power!" The shrill outcries that greeted this suggested that, for most delegates, the choice was perfectly easy.

Throughout the hall, delegates stood, their hands outstretched in the direction of the chairman. On one side stood Mr Ken Livingstone, on the other Mr Arthur Scargill. The choice fell on Mr Scargill. "I say this to the conference," he screamed, "there is any thought in the mind of abandoning our unilateral commitment, it will be hypocrisy at its worst!"

Just as Mr Livingstone had previously spoken of "civil war" in the party, Mr Scargill now spoke of "internecine warfare". For such peace-loving fellows, the imagery that prowls the dark corridors of their minds is curiously comical.

Up popped Mr Denis Healey bearing the suppressed grin he always displays whenever a street brawl is promised. Addressing the conference in the manner of a long-serving prep-school master who has better things to do than waste his time talking to a lot of wretched children, he said that there was no room in the debate for threats. He then rounded on Mr Livingstone, declaring forcefully that those who used the issue for personal political advantage would not be forgiven. To the untrained ear, this sounded curiously like a threat.

Craig Brown

# Kinnock refuses to exclude Trident

Continued from page 1

when the Labour leader uses the phrase "non-nuclear defence policy" he means the objective of non-nuclear defence. One source said: "What we had in 1987 was a set of means by which we would achieve a non-nuclear defence policy. Those means were appropriate to 1987. Clearly the same means would not be appropriate to 1991."

Labour's sophisticated new strategy, which relies on a fine semantic distinction which may not be appreciated by all the party's supporters, let alone the average voter, has not yet been communicated to all Mr Kinnock's senior colleagues.

In the interview, Mr Kinnock said: "I am not going to preempt this review of policy. What is very clear is that we are going to go through every policy with a toothcomb and find out how we can best achieve our objectives in the terms of appeal and in terms of serving the interests of the nation. That applies to defence as to everything else."

Mr Kinnock's remarks do nothing to remove the confusion surrounding the early manoeuvres on changing the policy. Mr Denis Davies, the defence spokesman, said yesterday that multilateralism always had been an option and that now there were talks between the Russians and the Americans Britain could play a part. The defence policy review could well result in a decision to put Trident into the talks.

He did not see Labour moving away from a non-nuclear defence policy. "Most people in the Labour party don't want a defence policy based on nuclear weapons," the argument was how they achieved that end.

Interviewed on television, he said: "We can move back again towards international action to get rid of nuclear weapons". Only the night before, at a Brighton fringe meeting, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, had poured scorn on the idea of Trident being retained.

# The Queen rebuffs Colonel Rabuka

Continued from page 1

did the Commonwealth Secretariat. Official reactions were deliberately muted in the hope that the colonel may again swing towards compromise.

The main concern was to avoid harming the chances that a meeting set for Monday between Fiji's political parties, the Governor-General and the military might still take place.

It was arranged on Wednesday, when Colonel Rabuka seemed to be wavering.

Dr Bavendra said yesterday that he still expects to be at Monday's meeting. Ratu Ganilau told Britain's High Commissioner, Mr Roger Barltrop, that he intended to be there.

A source close to the Governor-General added that he was avoiding saying or doing

anything that might compromise the meeting.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is understood to have delayed cutting off aid to Fiji.

● SUVA: Fiji's constitutional crisis is poised at a critical point following the reversion to confrontation between Colonel Rabuka, and Ratu Ganilau (Stephen Taylor writes).

Ratu Ganilau is again under severe pressure from the military regime, and his status was unclear last night.

Throughout the day the confusion which has been a paramount feature of the crisis deepened. The reason was the latest bewildering somersault by Colonel Rabuka, who stated that he had, after all, revoked the 1970 Constitution.

# \$3½m gem galvanizes Antwerp trade

From Richard Owen, Brussels

It was, even by the standards of the Antwerp diamond industry, "the big one", as one excited dealer put it. In a small room in Antwerp, one of the world's most magnificent rough diamonds was sold at an auction yesterday to an American bidder for a record \$3,654,000 (£2,280,000).

The deal astonished even the biased brokers of Antwerp and breathed new life into the port as a centre of the diamond trade.

"Staggering," said one. "A marvellous gem." Trade

sources said it would be cut into two or three smaller stones, because "any further cutting would risk detracting from its superb beauty."

Mr Richard Luzzar, director of the Industrial Diamond Company (IDC), which organized the sale, described the stone as "truly breathtaking, flawless."

The gem, an inch-and-a-half across and weighing 143 carats, was the subject of intense bidding. Thirty dealers from around the world took part by tender, with their bids contained in sealed envelopes.

The uncut diamond comes

from the former French colony of Guinea, in West Africa. The Ardor mine in Guinea, run by Bridge Oil of Australia, has produced several diamonds of just over 100 carats, including one which went earlier this year for £1 million. But yesterday's was the largest, most beautiful and by far the most expensive.

Antwerp, long a traditional centre of the diamond trade, suffered a severe setback last year when apparently reputable financiers were investigated for tax fraud and unofficial trading. The scandal sent ripples of fear through the

highly-sensitive diamond market, and trade fell off.

Yesterday there was relief on Pelican Street, centre of the Antwerp diamond business, that trade was sparkling again. The Diamond High Council, the body which supervises the trade and guards its professional standards, has been quietly restoring confidence.

Prices are at least 10 to 15 per cent up this year — and even higher for the latest Ardor gem, which has been expected to reach \$2 million at most.

# Soviet drive for reform

Continued from page 1

Soviet sources say Mr Gorbachev's personal answer to the rash of domestic and world rumours that his physical or political health had been the reason why he was not seen in public for seven weeks.

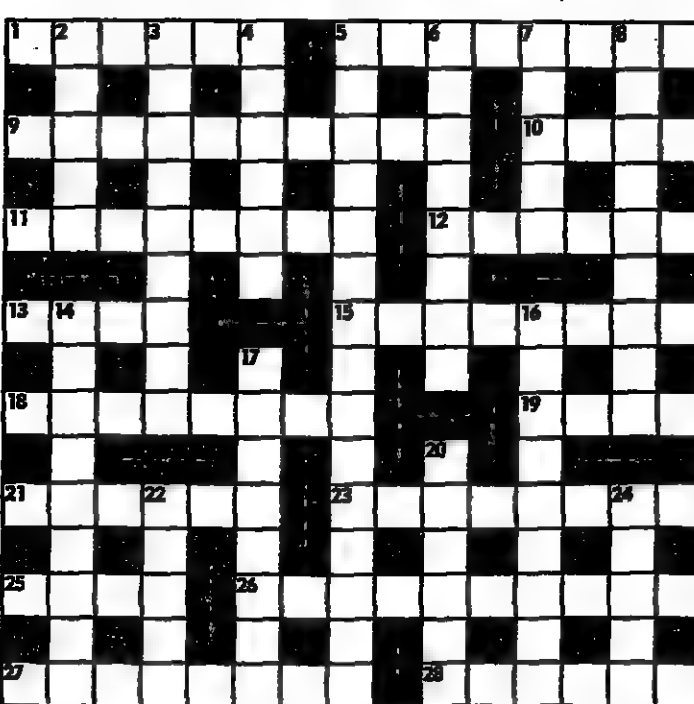
Turning to international matters for the first time since his reappearance on September 24, he proposed that the Warsaw Pact and NATO open immediate consultations on limiting military activity in the Baltic Sea, North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Greenland Sea.

He also made his first public comment on the successful talks in Washington last month designed to secure a pact on eliminating medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles before the end of 1987. "The world is close to a major step in the field of real nuclear disarmament," he said.

## Chile arrests

Santiago (AFP) — Chile's paramilitary police arrested more than 100 students protesting against military intervention on university campuses here, eyewitnesses said.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,477



### ACROSS

- Try for instance (6).
- Terrific, a fuddler when fuddled (8).
- Polish fish, a nice change (10).
- Treated as classy, but for Caesar (4).
- Noises limited, to be precise (8).
- Where the answers appear to remain fixed (6).
- See the heads go back (4).
- One has a dozen of them (8).
- Pass sound — describes the sound of clapping (9).
- Freeway travel (4).
- Run quite a long time after husband (6).
- Many have separate room in hospital when delirious (8).
- This fruit sounds vile (4).
- A novelty in the pub — cheers (10).
- Beastly fellow about to catch this girl (8).
- Choose to include your little old musician (6).

### DOWN

- Consent to take the same number, say (5).
- Excused those assigned for duty having to drink up (9).
- Draw out a direction — not illegal (6).
- Wait obsequiously, or hop over the gate (5,10).
- Rising, see about pardon for those in solitary? (8).
- Money — you need to speak to get some (5).
- Brought to light — then a rude commotion (9).
- Angel and harp in trouble with a flying squirrel (9).
- Alcoholic spirits stimulate another drink (4-5).
- Stand up to pinch — it improves the looks (4-5).
- Turn of year to marry (long ago) a student (6).
- A vehicle contains one of the birds (5).
- Supporters of the trunk or torso perhaps (5).

## WEATHER

An unstable southerly airstream will push north over Britain. Today will see the end of the settled spell in many places. All of England and Wales will have a cloudy start, with no fog or frost. There will be patchy and mostly light rain around at first but some heavy and at times thundery rain will spread north to reach the borders in the afternoon. After a cool but bright dawn over Scotland and Northern Ireland, cloud will increase, with occasional rain moving up from the south during the day. In the northern isles sunny intervals and showers can be expected throughout daylight hours. Outlook for the weekend: Unsettled but rather warm.

### ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Alexandria	22/23	SE	100
Algiers	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100
Amman	18/20	SE	100

### AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100
London	12/14	SE	100

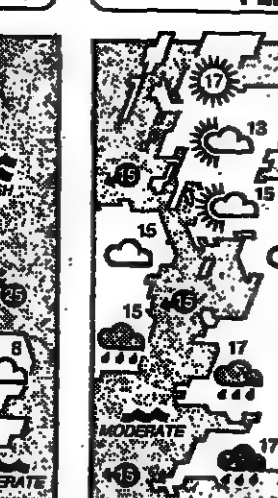
### HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5
London Bridge	10.15	10.5

### THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50
Australia	1.50

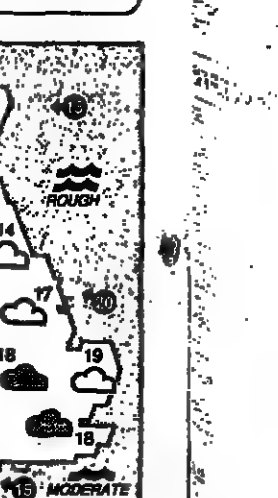
## AM



### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 7.07 pm to 6.34 am  
Bristol 7.17 pm to 6.43 am  
Edinburgh 7.15 pm to 6.43 am  
Preston 7.30 pm to 6.54 am

## PM



### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud: t. far: f. rain: s. sun.

### MANCHESTER

Temp	Wind	Cloud
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100
18/20	SE	100

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Minhead, Somerset, 17.0 (8.0); low temp: St Albans, Herts, 11.0 (5.0).  
Forecast: 17.0 (8.0) to 17.0 (8.0).  
Forecast: 17.0 (8.0) to 17.0 (8.0).

### NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

Yesterday's puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by all competitors in the 1987 National Final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship.

### Solution to Puzzle No 17,476



Crossword, page 14

سكنا من الامل



Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1860.9 (+7.2)  
FT-SE 100  
2373.8 (+7.8)

Bargains  
37996 (35856)

USM (Datastream)  
223.03 (+1.3)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6135 (-0.0135)  
W German mark  
2.9817 (-0.0120)  
Trade-weighted  
72.8 (-0.3)

## USM float sought by Stanhope

Stanhope Properties, the property company involved in the Broadgate project in the City with Roschag, the developer, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a price tag of £200 million.

SG Warburg, the merchant banker, is offering 11.1 million 25p shares, 10 per cent of the company, at a minimum tender price of 180p. No shareholders are selling shares and the cash raised from the new shares, about £17.8 million, will be used to repay Stanhope's borrowings.

## HTV increase

HTV Group, the independent television contractor for Wales and the West of England, is raising the final dividend from 5.7p to 6.6p a share, making 9.8p (8.5p) for the year. *Tempus, page 26*

Tomorrow's 12-page *Family Money* examines investment prospects for individuals in the American market. It looks at the life assurance needs of a young couple with children and explains what new unit trust regulations will mean.

## Etam at £5m

Etam, the high street fashion chain, reported annual pretax profits to August 15 up from £3.8 million to £5.6 million. Turnover grew 38 per cent to £49.6 million. An interim dividend of 1.5p (1.3p) was declared. *Tempus, page 26*

## SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2821.25 (+24.97)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	25721.74 (-289.14)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3949.73 (+6.09)
Australia	ASX 100	2218.0 (-29.2)
London	FT 30	1860.9 (+7.2)
Paris	CAC	407.7 (-2.7)
Zurich	SIX	631.4 (+8.8)
Frankfurt	DAX	1214.97 (+8.08)
Amsterdam	AEX	1330.65 (+6.81)
Stockholm	OMX	444.8 (-8.2)
Oslo	BSE	91.84 (+0.23)
Stockholm	BSE	85.72 (+0.17)

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Wentworth	228p (+43p)
S&W Berford	426p (+77p)
AB Foods	127p (+20p)
Britannia Assur	127p (+20p)
Wade Potatoes	285p (+50p)
Etam	326p (+10p)
Read Intl	509p (+15p)
Underwood	219p (+20p)
Alex Workwear	294p (+20p)
Campari	292p (+20p)
Wm Bedford	218p (+20p)
Calor	565p (+20p)
Ultramar	301p (+22p)
Appelore	504p (+34p)
Barclays	813p (+15p)
WPP Group	845p (+22p)
Whitbread	382p (+17p)

FALLS	
HTV	379p (-12p)
Enron	135p (-15p)
Com. Gold	1395p (-10p)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%	
3-month interbank: 10-10 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/2-9 3/4%	
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%	
Federal Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 6.59-6.57%	
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 1/4%	

### CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.6135	\$ £1.6170
£ Sfr 2.9817	Sfr £1.6485
£ Sfr 2.4848	Sfr £1.6485
£ FF 16.9125	FF £1.1905
£ Yen 237.18	Yen £1.1905
£ Index 72.8	Index £1.1905
ECU £0.664374	SDR £0.786875

### GOLD

London: Bank Base: 10%	
AM \$454 10 pm \$454.90	
close \$454.75-455.25 (\$281.75)	
New York	
Comex \$452.60-453.10	

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) 10.18	Nov \$18.50
Denotes interest trading price	

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## System X among telecom businesses merged

# £1.4bn GEC-Plessey link

By Derek Harris and Edward Townsend

General Electric Company and Plessey, the leading British electronics concerns, are to merge their telecommunications businesses in a new, jointly-owned venture which will have sales in excess of £1.4 billion. It means notably the merging of their System X telephone exchange businesses.

It comes just over a year after GEC's £1.2 billion bid for Plessey was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The main rationale for the bid was to combine the two telecommunications businesses to cut costs and boost revenues for the development of the new-style digital exchanges and improvements to System X.

Subsequent attempts to bring the two businesses together had, until now, failed.

The announcement of the joint venture said that agreement had been reached subject to detailed negotiations. It will combine the two companies' world-wide telecommunications businesses, covering public switching, transmission, private switching and other telecommunications and data products. The new venture will have assets of about £600 million.

There had been "extensive exploratory negotiations" focused on enhancing the international competitiveness of the British telecommunications industry, the announcement said.

It was being maintained last night that there would be a true fifty-fifty contribution to the new venture. Plessey will contribute more profits but GEC will put in more in the way of sales and assets.

Each company is expected to have an equal number of directors on the board of the new venture. No decision on the chairmanship has been made.

Sir John Clark, chairman of Plessey, clearly sees it as offering the company more freedom to develop its core activities of microelectronics and defence businesses. It increases the chances of Plessey seeking a significant acquisition, probably in north America where it was recently blocked in an attempt to take over Harris Corporation, the electronics manufacturer.

For Lord Weinstock, GEC's managing director, it is another move aimed at the revitalization of GEC. A recent series of deals has included a merging of the GEC medical electronics business

Comment.....27

with that of Holland's Philips. Now more seem likely.

Mr Graham Meek, an analyst with Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, said the marriage was long expected and a little overdue. "It is slightly more comprehensive than we would have expected in that it does not just cover System X - which is a positive move. Further to that, there is relief that they have finally come up with something. It has long been evident both to outsiders and to the managements of GEC and Plessey that two manufacturers of public telephone switching equipment is too many."

But he added: "Internationally there remain too many manufacturers of telephone switching equipment. I think that over the next five, six, seven years there will be further rationalization and more mergers of this kind."

Analysts said that while the news of the tie-up had been to a large extent discounted, the market was likely to respond warmly to the news.



## Previous takeover blocked

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government blocked the GEC attempt to buy Plessey for £1.2 billion in August last year after the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Paul Channon, accepted a Monopolies and Mergers Commission majority recommendation - five votes to one - against the bid.

The decision was made mainly on the grounds that a merger would reduce competition in the British defence electronics market. The report concluded that the two companies should rationalize their overlapping facilities for manufacturing System X digital telephone exchange equipment. The one member of the

MMC who was against rejection of the merger proposals was Mr Colin Baillieu.

At the time of the rejection the decision was seen as a victory for Plessey in its efforts to retain an independent foothold in the defence electronics market, but both companies also said at the time that they would be prepared to take over the other's System X facilities.

The report into the proposed full merger between the two companies said the telecoms market was worth about a total of £1.6 billion a year with the two companies taking almost half of it and also accounting for about 25,000 of the 45,000 workers.

## Pearson and News in talks

By Michael Tate

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, and Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, yesterday had a 90-minute lunch meeting at Millbank Tower, Pearson's Thames-side headquarters, after the acquisition by The News Corporation of 14.7 per cent of Pearson shares.

Pearson owns the *Financial Times* and a string of other interests, ranging from banking to merchant banking. The News Corporation, through its British subsidiary News International, owns five national newspapers, including *The Times*.

Mr Murdoch said after the meeting that the two men had "agreed to stay in touch."

Lord Blakenham said that "no concrete proposals for mutual co-operation" had been put forward by Mr Murdoch, although he added that Pearson "stands ready to consider favourably any commercial initiatives that would be in all its shareholders' interests."

He told Mr Murdoch that "new large shareholdings are unwelcome." He said Pearson did not want to be "too closely identified with any one company as a shareholder."

Mr Murdoch, however, stressed again that he had "neither the desire nor the intention" to seek control of Pearson.

Mr Murdoch told Lord Blakenham that his investment was intended to be "a long-term one," and that he "hoped to be supportive of the management and the company as a whole."

The News Corporation is now the largest single shareholder in Pearson after Broadminster Nominees, the Pearson family company, which speaks for 15.5 per cent.

## Burmah expected to bid for Calor

By Carol Fergusson

A bid approach for the Calor Group moved closer to reality yesterday after an announcement that two of its leading shareholders, Burmah Oil and SHV Holdings NV, were in discussions that could lead to a joint bid.

Burmah, which owns 24 per cent of Calor, and SHV, which has 29.9 per cent, are considering making an approach to Calor which "could lead to a joint offer at a modest premium" over yesterday's opening price of 500p.

Burmah observed yesterday that Calor's share price had been moving ahead fairly

rapidly although the announcement only served to push it higher. It jumped 50p on the announcement to 550p.

SHV, a Dutch private company with several significant investments in several European liquefied petroleum gas companies, is represented on Calor's board by Mr Paul van Vliet, SHV chief executive.

Mr David Mitchell, Calor chief executive, last night said, however, that he had not been a party to the discussions. "We are in the dark until we see the colour of their offer," he added. "But I imagine we won't have too long to wait."

When asked if he would have preferred to have been advised in advance that an announcement was going to be made, Mr Mitchell said: "Sometimes these things happen. I have considerable faith in SHV not to do anything harmful or dishonourable."

"They have always behaved in a straightforward way. We still regard them as loyal supporters of the company and their position on the board means that they could not act in a harmful way" he said. *Tempus, page 26*

## £7m advertising drive to boost share flotation

# Eurotunnel campaign perks up

By Joe Joseph

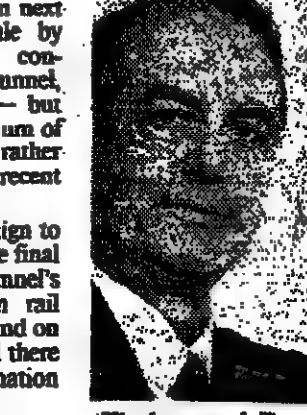
Private investors who take part in next month's £750 million share sale by Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the Channel tunnel, will receive travel-related perks - but they may have to put up a minimum of £500 for a stake in the company, rather more than in the Government's recent share issues.

A £7 million advertising campaign to publicize the flotation, which is the final and crucial chapter of Eurotunnel's fundraising for the £4.7 billion rail tunnel, begins today in the press and on television. Posters will follow, and there will be a Eurotunnel Share Information Office to deal with inquiries.

The £5 billion in bank loans and standby credits which Eurotunnel has raised to cover construction costs depends on the share offering being a success.

The pathfinder prospectus will not be issued until early next month, with the final prospectus following in mid-November. Details have yet to be finalized, but it is believed the shares are likely to be priced at around £3.40 to £3.50 each. They will be units listed in both London and Paris, and will consist of one share in Eurotunnel plc, an English company, and one share in Eurotunnel SA, a French company.

This is the price suggested by details of last year's share placing, when an initial



'The keystone': Eurotunnel's Morton

£250 million of equity was raised from institutional backers.

The price could be less if stock market conditions seem jittery, more if the issue appears to have tapped stronger demand than anticipated. The price must be paid in full, since partly paid shares cannot be listed on the Paris Bourse.

Only £300 million is being raised in Britain. A similar amount is being offered to French investors and the balance will be placed with Japanese, American and other European buyers.

The offer will close by the end of November, barely a month before work is due to begin on the English side of the Channel. But Eurotunnel is planning to

underwrite the issue, effectively erasing any doubts that the project, which has been gathering dust on the drawing board for two centuries, will go ahead.

Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, said: "The share offer is the keystone on which everything else depends. No keystone, no arch, no building. One has the feeling of arriving on the last lap of the course. We've a lot still to do, but I believe we will get there and arrive in style."

The minimum investment has been pitched above those in the Government's recent privatization issues, partly to create a more manageable share register, but also to make it possible to give worthwhile perks to those who succeed.

The nature of these perks will be revealed later this month. They will be available only to those who buy shares now and keep them until May 1993, when the first traffic is due to roll through the twin-bore tunnel. The perks will not be transferable when the shares are sold.

Unlike recent privatization issues, it will not be illegal to make multiple applications for Eurotunnel shares.

For an information pack on Eurotunnel and to reserve a prospectus, contact the Eurotunnel Share Information Office. Telephone 0272 377 007, or write to PO Box 501 Bristol, BS99 1ET.

## AB Foods in £767m offer for Berisford

By Alison Eadie

Associated British Foods, the cash-rich food manufacturer, yesterday launched a £767 million cash bid for S&W Berisford, the commodity trader and owner of British Sugar. ABF already has a 23.7 per cent stake in Berisford, acquired in May from Ferruzzi, the Italian agribusiness conglomerate.

Berisford dismissed the offer as unwelcome. Mr Ephraim Margulies, the chairman, said the offer did not begin to reflect the strengths and prospects of Berisford. He said it was an "opportunistic attempt to exploit a minority stake acquired from previously unsuccessful bidders, and to try to buy Berisford on the cheap."

Mr Gary Weston, chairman of ABF, said the decision to bid came after Tate & Lyle last month sold its 14.9 per cent stake in Berisford to interests friendly to the board. ABF had been having discussions with Tate to try and buy the stake, but Tate tried to attach "unacceptable conditions which would have curtailed our freedom to manage the assets," Mr Weston said.

The Tate stake went 75 per cent to the Chicago-based Pritzker family and 25 per cent to Berisford directors. A total of 20 per cent of Berisford's shares are now held by Berisford directors or associates. Coincidentally, the brothers Mr Jay and Mr Robert Pritzker joined the board of Berisford yesterday.

ABF's primary interest is in the sugar and food processing parts of Berisford. The company said the cash absorbing non-food operations had little contribution to make to the food division's activities or management, implying that they would probably be sold off.

The terms of the offer are 400p cash per share or a loan note alternative. ABF has ready cash of around £600 million and a total cash pile, including its 15 per cent stake in Dee Corporation, of more than £1 billion. Its 23.7 per cent stake was acquired for 29.5p per share.

City reaction to the bid was mixed. Some analysts said 400p was a fair price for Berisford, but others said it would need to be raised to at least 450p to be successful.

Berisford shares rose 76p to 425p, indicating that a higher offer was expected. ABF's shares also shot up 27p to 370p, on relief that the company was trying to do something with its cash mountain, and in the belief that the price could go higher without causing any dilution of ABF earnings.

Earlier this year rival bids by Tate & Lyle for Berisford and by Ferruzzi for British Sugar were blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, because of the combined sugar interests of either grouping. ABF does not have any sugar interests and Mr Weston said he hoped the Government and British farmers would welcome ABF's offer. ABF had talks with the Office of Fair Trading when it took its 23.7 per cent stake.

Berisford's pretax profits are expected to reach around £85 million in the year just ended on September 30, compared with £54.3 million the previous year. Interim pretax profits were £42.7 million against £40.3 million. British Sugar is expected to have had a record year, making some £73 million pretax compared with £60 million in 1985-86.

## Hill Samuel suspends shares

By Cliff Feltham

Hill Samuel, one of the country's leading merchant banks, unexpectedly suspended dealing in its shares yesterday pending an announcement.

There were strong stock market rumours that a takeover bid is likely from the £2 billion TSB Group.

Hill Samuel - which is in the throes of considerable upheaval - refused to comment on reasons for the share suspension.

But it was understood the bank was close to making an announcement concerning its future and became concerned at the sudden sharp rise in its shares yesterday morning.

They opened at 680p but quickly swept up to 720p before dealings were halted at 705p. At this price the group is valued at £650 million.

The cash-rich TSB would not comment on reports linking it with Hill Samuel. But the TSB has been keen to expand swiftly into the financial services sector and announced last night that it was taking over the bank.

Earlier this year merger talks between Hill Samuel and the Union Bank of Switzerland broke down. Then the arrival of new chief executive Mr David Davies was swiftly followed by the dismissal of Mr Trevor Swete, the corporate finance head, and Mr Christopher Rosher, his deputy, after allegations that they were negotiating the sale of their department.

Hill Samuel was then involved in takeover talks with the advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi but these were broken off.

Banking experts believe that if Hill Samuel is once again in bid talks - as the share suspension suggests - this will probably involve the sale of the stockbroking arm. Wood Mackenzie.

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# Henry Ansbacher to raise £69 million in rights issue

By John Bell, City Editor

Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the merchant banking to insurance broking group, is raising £69 million via a rights issue in order to beef up its banking resources and develop the other parts of its business.

The move, viewed as a positive one in the City, will more than double the capital base of the banking division to £72 million and increase group assets from £55 million to approximately £120 million.

The rights issue marks the second, expansionary phase of the changes brought in by Mr Richard Fenhalls, the chairman, since he joined the group early in 1985.

Since the dramatic loss of £31.4 million revealed in the Spring of 1985, Mr Fenhalls has consolidated and built upon a supportive relationship with his dominant conti-



Second expansionary phase since 1985: Richard Fenhalls

mental shareholders. These include the Pargesa Group and Banque Bruxelles Lambert, who between them own more than half the equity. A further 10 per cent is held by Banque Internationale à Luxembourg. By last year profits had recovered to £5.6 million.

Mr Fenhalls and his colleagues now believe that the group needs more capital in order to expand its lending, treasury and corporate finance activities. Under a heavily restructured management team, the banking business is progressing well. The cor-

porate finance team makes an appearance in the league table of top takeover advisers.

Outside banking, Ansbacher plans to invest about £25 million in developing the rest of its business especially insurance broking where in due course a number of acquisitions are likely. About £7 million of the rights issue proceeds will be used to repay a loan.

The board says that prospect for the year are satisfactory and forecasts an unchanged dividend of 2p per share.

The rights issue takes the form of a package of new ordinary shares and 9 per cent convertible loan stock maturing in 1998. For every 20 shares held shareholders will be offered six new shares at 82p and £5 of loan stock. The issue is underwritten and shareholders accounting for more than 72 per cent of the equity are taking up their rights in full.

## SIB plans tougher rules for unit trusts

By Peter Gartland, Family Money Editor

Tougher rules on the pricing of unit trusts and more protection for the consumer are the key points in a consultative document published yesterday by the Securities and Investments Board.

The SIB is taking over most regulation of the unit trust industry from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The chief new proposal in yesterday's document is a system whereby the price of units will be based on their valuation following receipt of the investor's order to buy or sell. This change would mirror practice in the US. The present British practice relies on unit prices from the previous day's trading. According to the SIB, this gives a privileged opportunity to professional operators and unit trust managers to profit at the expense of ordinary unit holders.

Sir Kenneth Berrill, chairman of the SIB, said yesterday that he was also trying to make the level of unit trust charges clearer to investors. At present, they are "all wrapped up", he said. The proposal here is that the unit trust's initial charge to investors, typically 5 per cent, would have to be separately identified.

A further recommendation by the SIB in the interests of what it calls "transparency" is that unit trust groups should indicate alongside published prices in newspapers whether the price is bid-based (B), offer-based (O) or intermediate (I).

## COMMENT TSB bid would have logic for Hill Samuel

A rumour that makes sense has everything going for it. Sometimes it can prove to be more logical than what actually happens. Certainly, the prospect of the TSB bidding for Hill Samuel today would be exciting even if the principals had never thought of it. For TSB's Sir John Read has the motive, the means and the opportunity to bail the Hill Samuel Board out of its partly self-induced misery.

Thanks to the Government's TSB giveaway, the £680 million from the second call on the sale of TSB shares has just gone into the banking group's coffers, with a built-in request from the City for rapid deployment. By coincidence, perhaps, that neatly covers the stock market value of Hill Samuel when its shares were suspended yesterday morning.

TSB has long made clear that it has a shopping list of acquisitions to both broaden and deepen its interests in growth areas of the financial services business. Any temptation to follow the path of the high street big four into megabanking would surely have been blunted by the Third World debt disasters which TSB's domestic retail profile allowed it to escape. Rather, TSB has a wonderful customer base with rising incomes and broadening horizons to buy a wider range of in-house services. TSB also wants to build its corporate banking and needs to improve its service to companies. And it wants to broaden its customer base by marketing products to the already affluent.

If the £220 million acquisition of the Target life and unit trust group helped the latter cause, Hill Samuel would fulfil many of the important ambitions in one go. The merchant bank and Wood Mackenzie securities operation — original source of Hill Samuel's flight from independence in search of resources — would transform TSB's appeal to the business market as well as providing the wherewithal for high street securities business. Moreover, Hill Samuel's other main businesses, investment management and the Noble Lowndes employee benefit empire, would greatly extend the group's retail financial services potential, particularly in the likely high-growth area of personal pensions.

The opportunity arises because, David Davies and his colleagues on the Hill Samuel board cannot be so fussy as they once were with unwelcome predators barking round the walls. The TSB is eminently acceptable and could evidently provide the City sophisticates of Hill Samuel with tempting career opportunities. It provides the basic resources Wood Mackenzie needs, though lacking any input to the banking group's perennial international ambitions. Unlike the Union Bank of

Switzerland, TSB has already shown in its failed bid for Hogg Robinson that it is happy to break up an acquisition and sell the bits it does not want. In Hill Samuel's case, these would surely include the insurance broking and shipping services areas. Wood Mackenzie could be sold if required. And TSB could well decide to sell the corporate finance business to City rival BZW.

Hill Samuel might, indeed, be hard-pressed to deliver more logical news of its fate this morning.

### Connecting at last

If ever there was a deal waiting to happen, it is the merger of GEC and Plessey's interests in System X telecommunications. Whitehall has long favoured it. The City wanted it. The Monopolies Commission paraded its virtues while rejecting a full GEC takeover of Plessey at the behest of the Ministry of Defence. Since then, only the incompatible ambitions of the personalities involved have delayed matters.

Plessey's Sir John Clark — to whom the telecommunications business is most central — was more than happy to buy out his rivals. GEC's Lord Weinstock thought he could make a better job of combining the businesses, rather than inflating Plessey's size relative to the GEC. Markets can arbitrate between personalities in a bid. But the principals have to agree in a deal between two sovereign boards. A joint company was less than ideal but the only possible outcome.

The spur for a merger of interests came from the privatization of British Telecom, previously the state customer for an effective cartel protected by public sector inclinations to buy British. Once BT started behaving in a somewhat exaggeratedly commercial fashion, the two main British producers rapidly cried foul. System X had been developed at enormous cost and with suitable delay to BT's exacting and changing specifications — a classic case of how not to do it. That has made the system virtually unsaleable in the rest of the world. The producers were content if they earned high protected profits in return.

Once BT started hedging its bets by buying Ericsson's rival System Y, GEC and Plessey were in trouble. They had fallen badly down the world league in husbanding the UK market. Even together, the giant company that will now be put together will look decidedly modest compared with foreign rivals in the business telephone market, let alone basic networks. Development is fast and expensive and GEC and Plessey are too heavily dependent on System X and the British market. Yesterday's agreement makes a start in repairing the damage. The new company will have a lot of leeway to make up.

## Ling's £65m buys add to MacLellan

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Philip Ling, the entrepreneur, who in June this year took control of P&W MacLellan, is now reversing two private companies into the tiny supplier of agricultural parts in a deal valuing the companies at £65 million.

The deal heralds a fivefold increase in MacLellan's market capitalization to approximately £81 million. Its shares were suspended yesterday at 170p.

MacLellan is buying Haden Group, the industrial paints company, for £40 million. Mr

Ling was managing director of Haden in 1985 when the Haden management, backed by City institutions, paid £60 million for the group.

The deal is being financed via new MacLellan ordinary and preference shares, with £22.2 million of the shares being placed at 150p each to raise cash for the vendors with a clawback in favour of existing shareholders. MacLellan will make a further payment of £16 million cash representing the surplus on the Haden pension fund after tax of 40 per cent.

MacLellan is also paying

£25 million in shares for Hadenworth Holdings, the private group, chaired by Mr Ling, which acquired a 29 per cent stake in MacLellan in June this year paying £1 per share at the time.

Hadenworth's stake in MacLellan is now being placed at 150p a share to allow the purchase to go through. Mr Ling owns 10 per cent of Hadenworth's ordinary shares.

Because of common directorships between MacLellan's board and the boards of the companies being acquired, independent committees have

been formed to consider the proposals.

More than 50 per cent of MacLellan's shares have been pledged in favour of the Haden purchase and 47.5 per cent already support the acquisition of Hadenworth.

At June 30 1987 Haden had a £13.1 million cash balance. It made a loss of £400,000 in the six months, but made operating profits of £9.2 million last year. Hadenworth had operating profits of £1.8 in its most recent half-year period.

MacLellan's will become Haden MacLellan Holdings when the deal goes through.

## Nationwide Anglia in gilts loan plan

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Nationwide Anglia Building Society yesterday began a scheme for lending part of its portfolio of government securities to market makers.

Market makers will be able to borrow gilt-edged stock from Nationwide Anglia to cover temporary shortages in their holdings. Up to £250 million of the building society's gilt-edged portfolio will be available initially for borrowing. The loans will be secured against other securities and Nationwide Anglia will receive a lending fee.

The first £250 million tranche will be made available through three money brokers.

Nationwide Anglia is the first building society to take

advantage of rules — The Building Societies (Liquid Asset) Regulations 1987, published on August 20 — which came into force yesterday.

In practice, most building society gilt-edged holdings are short-dated. During the period in which the stock is lent out, there is technically a change in ownership. But Nationwide Anglia will be reimbursed by the money brokers in respect of any dividend payments.

Mr Allan Bowers, Nationwide Anglia general manager, said: "With the competition for investment funds becoming ever more fierce, it is vitally important that we make the best use possible of all our assets."

## Brierley soars to £270.6m

By Michael Tate

Brierley Investments, Mr Ron Brierley's master company, involved in a £450 million takeover battle for Equity & Law, reported profits of £236,766 million for the year to end-June, compared with £23,397.5 million previously.

It also unveiled a one-for-10 rights issue, to raise £252.4 million, and a one-for-four scrip issue.

Group turnover more than doubled from £233.33 billion to £237.15 billion. The dividend is raised 60 per cent to 10 pence.

## Jacques Vert style produces £1.64m

By Joe Joseph

Jacques Vert, the USM-quoted women's fashion house which has successfully tapped a booming market for quality, middle-of-the-range clothing, lifted pretax profits by 37 per cent to £1.64 million in the six months to July 17. Turnover climbed by nearly 60 per cent to £10.77 million.

Rising production from new manufacturing sites has been soaked up by a sharp jump in exports, which more than doubled, and the opening of four new Jacques Vert shops, twice the number compared with this time last year. Another three shops will be opened by Christmas.

Preferring to funnel cash towards further investment

within the group, the directors are once again passing on an interim dividend.

Mr Jack Cynamon, the chairman, said: "We are confident for the future of the group and intend to capitalize on the considerable potential demand for our products by investing now in new plant, people and brand advertising. We expect particular demand from North America and Europe, where our sales are increasing dramatically."

"Because we have succeeded in bringing forward our autumn delivery season, the imbalance between the two halves of the year will not be so pronounced as in the past."

## British Gas 'will need Norway'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Gas will be able to meet more than half Britain's gas needs from offshore fields already under contract, but will need to look at more imports from Norway in the longer term, according to Wood Mackenzie.

The Edinburgh-based broker, which has a detailed data bank of all North Sea oil and gas fields, said yesterday that the timing and size of British Gas purchases from overseas will be affected by the price

and quantity of indigenous gas that could be offered to the company.

While in the state sector, British Gas's plans to buy £20 billion worth of gas for the 1990s from the Norwegian Sleipner field were vetoed by the Government. The Treasury objected to the scale of the purchase — it would have been Britain's largest-ever import deal — and the British oil companies argued that they could meet needs from undeveloped fields in the North Sea if they were given a viable price that would allow

development. British Gas consistently argued that to ensure supplies it would have to turn to Norway during the next decade.

The main points of the Wood Mackenzie analysis are:

- In 1987-88 a slight deficiency in supply caused by the demise of the Norwegian Frigg field will be easily made up by gas owed to British Gas from previously underutilized fields.

- In 1989-90 the supply gap will be met by overdrifting from southern basin gas fields and

from British Gas's own Morcombe Bay field.

- British Gas is likely to contract within the next 18 months for 8 trillion cubic feet of gas to meet demand in the early 1990s, with most of the gas coming from the southern basin and the Brae/ Miller complex.

The report adds: "Given that eventually imports, most likely Norwegian, will be required to meet long-term UK demand, British Gas may wish to see a transitional period in the mid to late 1990s."

## Berrill in peril?

Rumours are circulating, it seems, that Sir Kenneth Berrill, the 67-year-old chairman of the investment watchdog the SIB, may not have his three-year contract renewed when it expires in seven months' time. Yesterday he rejected suggestions that Trade Secretary Lord Young had asked him not to seek re-appointment next May. Protesting, almost a little too loudly, he emphasized that his relationship with Lord Young was far from acrimonious. The two men apparently dined together on Wednesday evening and Sir Kenneth was anxious to let it be known that Lord Young fully supported the SIB. Sir Kenneth, whose re-appointment will be decided by the Governor of the Bank of England as well as Lord Young, added: "I took the job on for three years. It would be nice to go on a bit longer, but if I don't then so be it". If the SIB and Sir Kenneth are to part company he certainly won't be short of job offers. Who knows? The former head of the Government think-tank, university professor and chairman of Vickers da Costa might even decide there is merit in being game-keeper turned poacher.

### Table talk

One beneficial effect of Big Bang is that lonely market-makers, isolated in their ivory towers, are so delighted to renew old acquaintances that they are raising record sums of money for worthy causes. The com-

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Mischievous Imps

Buried amidst the pile of discarded documents produced by the Imperial camp in its vain attempt to fend off Hanson Trust's aggressive takeover bid is a report that would intrigue, not least, Lord Hanson. Compiled by Imps' in-house defence team and management consultant LEK, it apparently attempted to show that the predator's growth was in no way organic, and that the acquisition of

Imps was not necessary in order to maintain Hanson's historic growth rate, following so hot on the heels of its purchase of SCM in the States. The report goes on to conclude that there is one British company which Hanson would find much more eligible, in terms of size, cash flow and self-off opportunities — Midland Bank, where, it so happens, Hanson has just amassed a 6.1 per cent stake.

bined annual dinner of the Stock Exchange Veterans Club and the Water Rats — an entertainment industry charity — at Accountants Hall in Copthall Avenue the other night raised £35,000 from an auction. "It was a record, we've never raised more than £18,000 before," says auc-

tioner Barry Pearl of Phillips & Drew. "The atmosphere was marvellous — it was the first time we'd seen each other since Big Bang." With just 300 diners, that means an average spend of more than £100 a head.

### Italian Arc

The Trusthouse Forte Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was enough of a mouthful for the world's most famous horse race, but news last month that an Italian hotel group was to take over the sponsorship means that it is now to be known as The Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Steve Gebbett, managing director of the City PR firm Charles Barker Lyons, is offering a bottle of champagne to any reader who can think of a longer tongue-twister for a sponsored event.

## Blonde bombshell

Few people spend all their working life in the City — most depart for career pastures new before or after reaching burn-out. One who left the Square Mile for fame and fortune was blonde Julie Wooldridge. Julie, aged 28, who used to work for the stockbroker Carr Seabag in its box — now tours the world as Princess Diana's look-alike. Her similarity to the then Lady Diana Spencer was first spotted by a colleague, Miranda Clark, daughter of Plessey chairman Sir John Clark, who went to school with Diana. "She kept saying that I reminded her of a school friend, and all of a sudden Diana started going out with Prince Charles and her pictures started appearing in the newspapers," says Julie. "Everyone then started telling me how similar we were, and on one occasion I was chased down Bond Street by a party of Japanese tourists who thought it really was her." When the royal engagement was announced, Seabag's brokers persuaded Julie — who now works full-time for the agency Lookalikes — to buy a blue suit identical to the engagement photographs and join them in the Royal Exchange bar. Such a jolly jape would these days cost them more than a bottle of champagne.

- A hoax? BP's share office has received a registration of interest in its float from one Ayatollah Khomeini, posted in Paris, where the Iranian has a home.

Carol Leonard

# "Sell my fleet and lease it back? Only the contract hire company benefits."

# Or do they?

If you believe contract hire is not as good a deal as all that — there's a good deal you don't know about Wincanton.

Some people have convinced themselves that you'd get less than book value for your fleet in a 'purchase and contract hire it back' situation. At Wincanton we guarantee to pay full book value, subject of course to credit status.

Wincanton have also tackled other major concerns. For instance, you won't find Wincanton customers paying hefty penalties for exceeding the agreed mileage or find us making a fuss if they want to change their contracts — we even arrange low cost short term schemes.

So think what you like about contract hire, it's the facts that speak for themselves.

## WINCANTON CONTRACTS

Wincanton Contracts Limited, Wincanton House, 333 Western Avenue, London W3 0RS, Telephone: 01-993 7611



## Pension funds wary of property

By Cliff Feltham

Pension fund investment in property has slumped to a record low — at a time when bricks and mortar are beginning to show good returns.

The latest survey by W.M. Company, which examined 48 portfolios with nearly 2,500 properties worth £5.2 billion, found that pension funds now had only 8 per cent of their funds tied up in property.

The total return of 12 per cent against 7 per cent in the previous year "compared very favourably with inflation and was superior to both fixed interest and cash," W.M. points out. "It was, however, still considerably less than that for equities which continued to show well above average dividend growth."

Mr Michael Hall, the former investment manager of Phillips & Drew who advised on the survey, says the results suggest pension fund managers still remain wary of property while they were able to achieve above average returns in the equity market.

Retail property produced a return of 15 per cent. City offices continued to show above average results of 16.5 per cent while retail in the greater London area "gave an exceptional return of 28 per cent."

Scotland showed below average returns while agriculture continued depressed with capital losses of about 11 per cent.

## Keswick pays \$391m for 20% stake in US investment firm

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Jardine Strategic Holdings, a Hong Kong-listed company owned 47 per cent by Jardine Matheson, is paying US\$391 million (£241 million) for a 20 per cent stake in Bear Stearns, the American investment banking firm.

Mr Simon Keswick, Jardine chairman, hopes to sign the deal within a month and will finance it with bank borrowings.

Bear Stearns is one of America's top banking and stockbroking firms, and the ninth largest member firm of the New York Stock Exchange. It reported profits of \$173 million on a turnover of \$1.8 billion in the year ending April.

Under the deal announced in New York, the Keswick investment arm will offer to buy 16.3 million Bear Stearns

shares, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, for \$23 a share.

If not enough shareholders accept the Jardine offer, the partners of the banking firm, who own 45 per cent of the shares, have agreed to make up the difference.

Mr Keswick said he was "looking forward to a long and close working relationship" with the Bear Stearns management team, but ruled out a full takeover bid for at least five years.

He has promised that he will not raise his stake in the firm to more than 25 per cent for the next three years, or above 35 per cent for the two years after that "except in agreed circumstances."

Speaking from New York, Mr Brian Powers, managing director of Jardine Strategic



Keswick: 'long-term stake'

Holdings said: "This purchase fits our strategy absolutely perfectly. We feel very fortunate to be able to do this on a very friendly basis, and to go into what we feel is one of the most outstanding merchant banks in New York."

Asked if Jardine wanted to increase its stake, Mr Powers said that if anybody else were to bid for the company or acquire a substantial stake, then the Hong Kong firm would be free to increase its holding without limit.

Mr Keswick said: "This investment is in furtherance of Jardine Strategic Holdings' policy of taking substantial, long-term stakes in successful well-managed companies."

The investment company owns 35 per cent of Dairy Farm, the retailing group, and 29 per cent of the hotels group Mandarin Oriental, both of which were hived off from Hongkong Land.

"The holding in Bear Stearns will become our fifth major strategic stake and will represent some 20 per cent of the value of our portfolio," Mr Keswick said.

## Japanese savings soar 12%

By David Watts, Tokyo

Japan's savings have made a big jump this year although foreign governments have been urging the Japanese to spend as a means of reducing the country's huge trade imbalances.

The 12.3 per cent increase was the biggest in seven years and meant average savings of 8.21 million yen (£34,000) for households of two or more.

The Central Council for Savings Promotion, which the government said it would abolish to reduce the propensity to save, said the increase was due mainly to gains on Tokyo's booming stock market. Savings were 1.7 times average annual income.

Almost half of the 4,249 households surveyed in June and July had average debts of ¥6.13 million. The net average savings were ¥5.62 million, up 19.3 per cent from last year, and 3.3 per cent of households had no savings.

People in their twenties had average savings of ¥1.93 million, while those in their thirties had ¥4.98 million, those in their forties ¥7.51 million and those in their fifties ¥10.45 million.

The survey showed that 52.3 per cent of savings were held in bank deposits and postal savings; 20 per cent in life and liability insurance policies; 15.6 per cent in stocks and bonds; and 5.6 per cent in loan and money trusts.

## Pentland chooses deputy chairman

Pentland Industries: Mr Robert Shepherd has been named deputy chairman.

Murdoch Magazines: Mr Rupert Murdoch's US magazine publishing operation has announced the formation of Murdoch Magazines (UK) Ltd and named Elizabeth Rees-Jones as its managing director.

County NatWest: Mr Peter Franklin, Mr Noel Healy, Mr Ian Longworth, Mr Philip Marsden, Mr Robert Ogilvie, Mr Paul Rivlin, Mr David Tyler and Mr Philip Young join the board.

Broad Street Associates: Public Relations: Mr John Stevens is named director of investor relations.

Gateway: Mr Ian Welby becomes marketing director and Mr Bob Willen joins the board as non-food director.

United Distillers Group: Mr Shunji Norimoto is made regional director for Japan.



Elizabeth Rees-Jones: managing director of Murdoch Magazines (UK)

Bose UK: Mr Alan Kilford is named managing director.

Gavin Martin: Mr George Greenfield has been appointed sales director.

Highland: Mr Geoffrey Parker is elected chief executive.

HomeLife Care: Mr George Wisz is named managing director.

North British Maritime Group: Mr Coffa O'Brien becomes finance director.

### LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	85.81	85.85	85.55	85.55	4378
Mar 88	85.73	85.74	85.55	85.55	4111
Jun 88	85.73	85.74	85.55	85.55	4011
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	85.50	
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	85.40	
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	85.30	
Jun 89	NT	NT	NT	85.20	
Previous day's total open interest: US\$1					
Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	91.44	91.45	91.40	91.44	4195
Mar 88	91.06	91.10	91.04	91.05	4494
Jun 88	90.79	90.83	90.78	90.82	380
Sep 88	90.59	90.63	90.57	90.59	6
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	90.44	
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	90.35	
Jun 89	NT	NT	NT	90.27	
Sep 89	NT	NT	NT	90.17	
Previous day's total open interest: 29433					
US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	85.00	85.01	85.17	85.25	9887
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	85.20	
Jun 88	NT	NT	NT	85.20	
Previous day's total open interest: \$495					
Long Call	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	114.18	115.05	114.45	114.47	32862
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	114.10	0
Jun 88	NT	NT	NT	114.10	
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	114.10	
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	114.10	
Previous day's total open interest: 20001					
OT-GE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	243.30	244.80	243.30	243.70	1436
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	243.20	
Previous day's total open interest: 1001					
Three Month Government Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 87	96.30	96.40	96.00	96.10	500
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	96.10	
Previous day's total open interest: 10001					



# Too close for comfort?

Getting this close to Mickey Mouse isn't something you probably do every day, so isn't it comforting to know that in his sixtieth year (next year 1988) we're encouraging you and other potential partners to get to know him better.

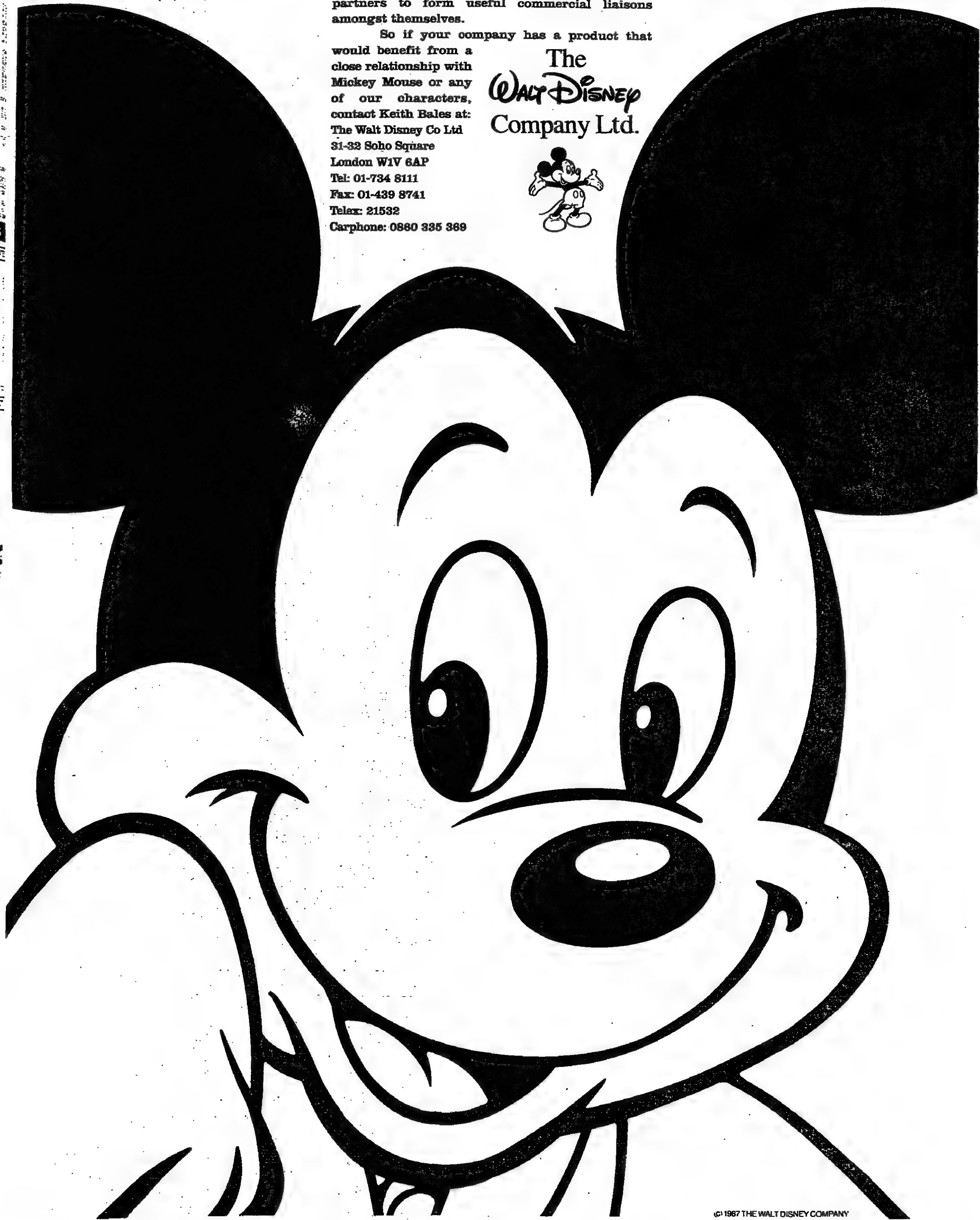
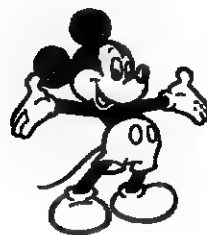
Why? Well we believe a close relationship is most definitely a profitable one.

Numerous household names from St Michael to St Ivel (and many more besides) have benefited from a strategic alliance with The Walt Disney Company.

What's more we actually encourage our partners to form useful commercial liaisons amongst themselves.

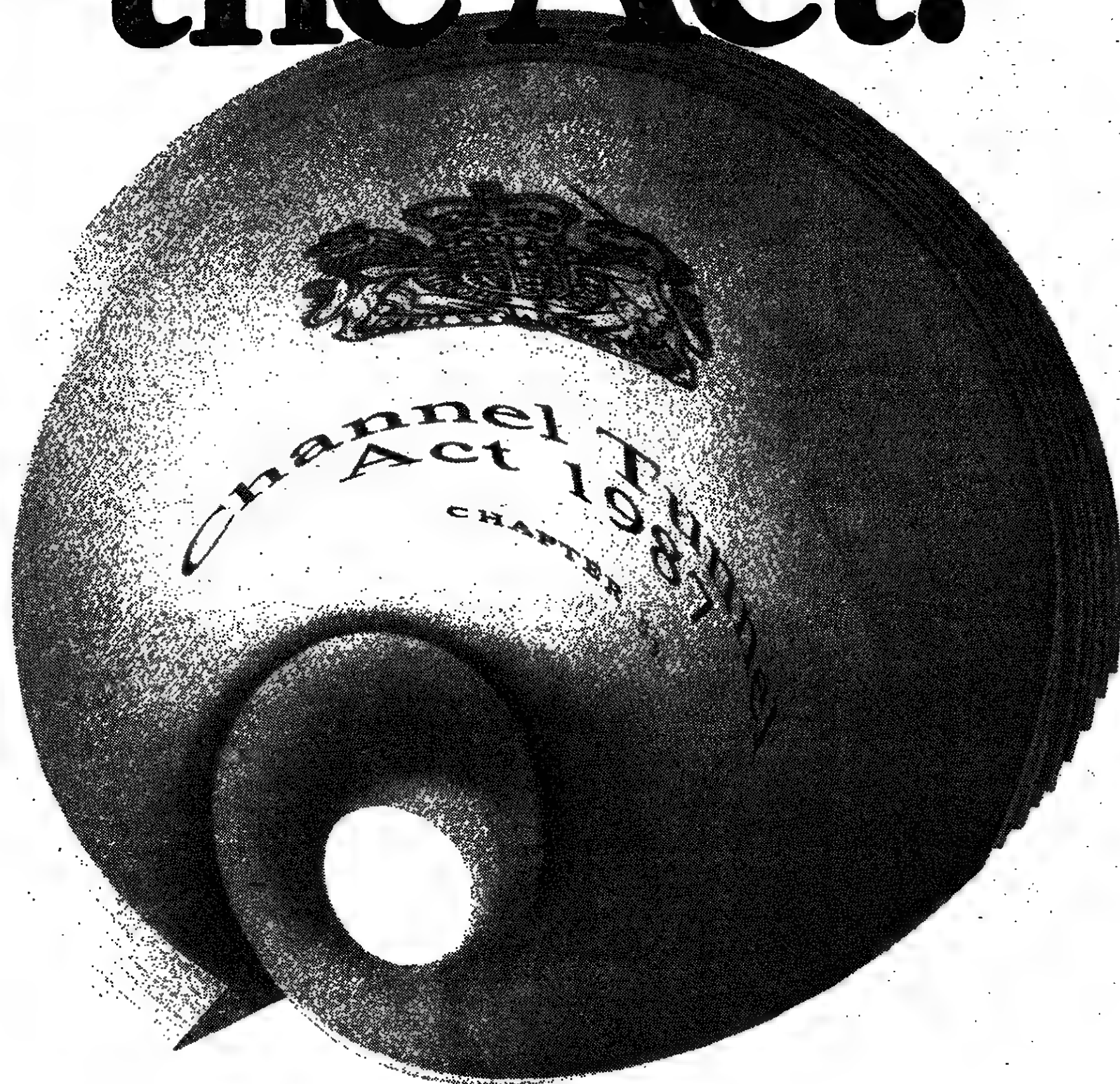
So if your company has a product that would benefit from a close relationship with Mickey Mouse or any of our characters, contact Keith Bales at:  
The Walt Disney Co Ltd  
31-33 Soho Square  
London W1V 6AP  
Tel: 01-734 8111  
Fax: 01-439 8741  
Telex: 21532  
Carphone: 0860 335 369

The  
**WALT DISNEY**  
Company Ltd.





# Eurotunnel: how to get into the Act.



In July, Parliament passed the Channel Tunnel Act.

A few days later, the Channel Tunnel Treaty was ratified by the British and French governments.

This authorised Eurotunnel to construct and operate the first-ever fixed link between Britain and the Continent.

Work on the Tunnel is already underway. It's scheduled to open in 1993.

The whole of this great enterprise is being funded privately.

And next month, shares in Eurotunnel will be offered for sale to the public.

Before you decide whether to invest or not, you'll want to look into Eurotunnel carefully.

How will its transport system be built?

How will it be paid for? How will it work?

Who will use it? How will it affect industry, business and tourists?

Phone 0272 277 007 or send in the coupon below for information. A prospectus will be reserved for you and, as the offer draws closer, you'll be kept in touch with further information.

All of which will help you to decide whether to Act.

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and send to:  
Eurotunnel Share Information Office, PO Box 501, Bristol, BS99 1ET

TITLE (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAMES (in full) \_\_\_\_\_


SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

A breakthrough for Britain



## Eurotunnel Share Offer

Issued by Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Eurotunnel P.L.C. and Eurotunnel S.A.

مكتبة الامم



Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BSS Group	Industrial A-D	
2	Parfild	Industrial L-R	
3	Parfild (a)	Industrial L-R	
4	Kingsley Group	Buildings/Roads	
5	Christy Hunt	Industrial A-D	
6	Quirk (H)	Motors/Aircraft	
7	Dalrymple (a)	Food	
8	Harrogate Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
9	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
10	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
11	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
12	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
13	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
14	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
15	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
16	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
17	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
18	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
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31	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
32	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
33	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
34	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
35	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
36	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
37	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
38	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
39	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
40	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
41	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
42	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
43	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	
44	Wentworth Biscuits	Industrial A-D	

Please take into account any minus signs

WEEKLY DIVIDEND  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1987 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

UNDATED

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INDEX-LINKED

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES  
Moderate advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end October 9. Contango day October 12. Settlement day October 19.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 26.)

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

DRAPERY AND STONES

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INSURANCE

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

MINING

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

SHIPPING

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

SHOES AND LEATHER

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCO

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FOODS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OIL & GAS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

S-Z

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

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1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

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1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

STOCKS

70	88	Leche	153	163	+10	25.9	18.1
74	10	Liberty	15	16	1	1.5	7.2
649	325	Lovins	633	653	20	..	..
167	64	M&M	141	144	3	..	..
78	15	Malayan Mining	75	80	+5	..	..
96	9	Marble Corp	88	90	2	..	..
17	7	Marquardt	12	15	3	..	..
10	553	Masco	9	10	1	10.9	1.9
214	23	Mc. Austin	167	166	-1	..	..



UNLISTED SECURITIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

COPPER GRADE & C

STANDARD CANTONDS

GAS OIL (G.W. Johnson)

HEAVY FUEL OIL (Wine)

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بَكْنَا مِنَ الْإِصْحَابِ



# The £6m boost for better homes



A national network of 50 centres is being set up to help people repair and improve their homes. The initiative, by private agencies backed by the Government, aims to make the best use of improvement grants following cutbacks



John Patten, the former Housing Minister, launched the £6 million initiative

Home repair and improvement agency services were given a fillip this week in the Government's White Paper on housing which reflected its pleasure with the progress the agencies have made so far in underpinning the Government's home-ownership programme and finding a better way to target home improvement grants.

Today, Mrs Marion Roe, an Under-Secretary at the Environment Department, is expected to concentrate on these two aspects when she addresses delegates to the National Home Improvement Council's presentation in London on its Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme.

Home-owners, particularly the elderly, will benefit most under a £6 million initiative launched last November by John Patten, then Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction.

By March 1988, a countrywide network of 50 centres will have been established to offer practical advice and help.

The private and voluntary sectors are spearheading the campaign but rely on central government funding for pump-priming, and the goodwill of local authorities for its implementation.

Half the new centres are being set up by the National Home Improvement Council, which has four pilot projects underway in Bedford, Gloucester, Sheffield and

Oldham. The others are by Care and Repair Ltd, with the Anchor Housing Trust, working alongside housing associations and voluntary bodies.

Much of what Mrs Roe is likely to say will be aimed specifically at private sources of funding: home-owners with savings or those willing and able to raise loans against the equity of their homes; and the construction industry.

With more than half the

## Government funding will depend on performance

country's housing stock more than 50 years old, it is in everyone's interest to secure increased spending on homes which are in a serious state of disrepair but which are structurally sound.

Now attention is to be focused on ensuring that investment is effective, and that the repairs undertaken are essential rather than purely cosmetic.

After its drastic cuts in home improvement grants from the level of a few years ago — to around £400 million a year now — the Government wants the private sector to make up the balance.

It also wants the construction

industry to demonstrate its commitment to improving the standard of its work.

From the Government's viewpoint there are social as well as financial benefits in supporting the initiative: the elderly can remain in their own homes, an option which many prefer, and at lower cost to the public purse; and there are medium to long-term advantages in local communities becoming interested and involved in improvement, if this can become self-sustaining.

The performance of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme, which receives £2 million of public funding, and the Care and Repair Scheme, which receives £1 million, is being closely monitored by the independent School for Advanced Urban Studies in Bristol, as well as by the Environment Department.

They are assessing progress, the successful elements of which might justify further subsidy, and how much spending is generated by the agency services which would not take place otherwise.

Ministers are keen to impress on all the parties involved that the services are still very much in their "experimental" phase and that any extension of the public funding already committed will be rigorously measured against performance.

No doubt the Treasury will argue for self-financing schemes, and the Environment Department

More than half of the country's homes are over 50 years old. Many need repairs to stave off decay.

Today, Mrs Marion Roe, right, an Under Secretary at the Department of the Environment, is expected to stress the importance of private sector support in the Government's drive to better target home improvement grants

would like the role of the agency services to expand eventually into other areas of renewal.

These will depend on a process of hard bargaining between the agencies and the Government.

With the construction industry doing quite well in terms of workload and profitability at the moment, ministers argue that many opportunities are waiting to be explored, and ultimately it is up to the industry to decide how vigorously to pursue the NRS option.

Neither side rules out the possibility of the National Home Improvement Council, or its service, becoming a powerful voice in housing policy through its lobbying activity and demonstration partnership schemes proving to be successful and cost-effective.

Naturally there is a tendency in government circles for questions to be raised about how little need be spent to extract the maximum private sector commitment:

whether smaller home improvement grants — say, 25 per cent rather than 75 per cent, or even 90 per cent in discretionary cases — could be equally effective in obtaining results in more prosperous parts of the country.

Similarly, local authorities will have to come to terms over the next few months with the new provisions of the White Paper: for means-testing grant applicants; enforcing the mandatory and discretionary elements of the new grant (it replaces four previously); combining the criteria for housing and general improvement areas in a single housing renewal area; the implications of group repair schemes; and clarification of their own powers to support agency services when the Environment Secretary is also empowered to intervene directly.

The potential role of agency services, such as those provided by the NHIC and Care and Repair, is enormous, and the relief

of housing stress is likely to become more prominent on every political agenda over the next few years.

While it may take several years before the extent of their success can be measured empirically, there is enough optimism, enthusiasm — and realism — among the public, private and voluntary sectors to ensure that they are made to work as effectively as possible.

Charles Knevitt

Architecture Correspondent

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# Redland Revitalise

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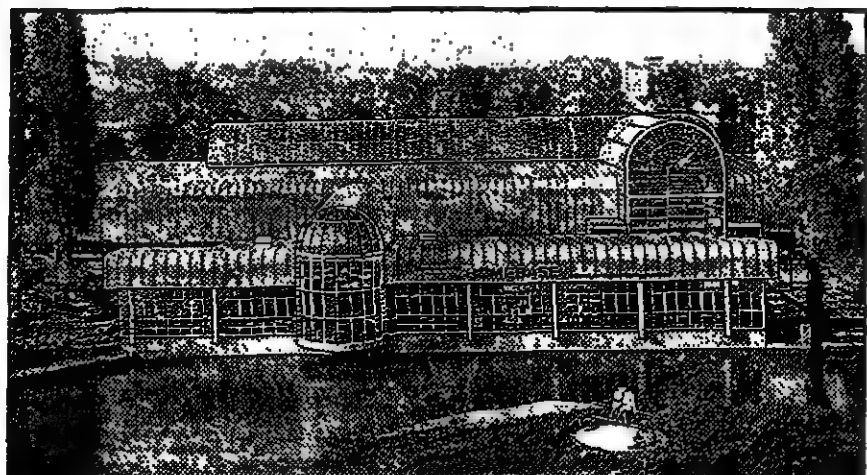
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REVITALIZATION/2

## FOCUS

## Building the scheme from 3 to 400

**'Nineteen-eighty-six was a year of planning and negotiation and we expect in 1987 to see the fruits of this work... It is our hope that those of us who share the concern about the condition of the nation's housing stock can work together to produce visible improvements'**

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As a member of the National Home Improvement Council we support the aims of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Services Scheme. And being a House and Garden Centre, where possible, we do it ourselves.

**SAINSBURY'S  
HOMEBASE**  
HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

With these words, Ernest Cantle concluded his director's report on the National Home Improvement Council's activities last year. But he also, writes Charles Knevit, took the opportunity to comment on the Government's lack of a coherent housing policy, the frequent and disruptive changes of Ministers within the Department of the Environment and the way the annual allocation of housing investment programme to local authorities ensures that they cannot plan ahead to sustain an agreed strategy.

Mr Cantle's disarmingly frank analysis of problems which beset those involved in housing policy and implementation belie his avuncular manner. He joined NHIC in 1978, three years after it was formed, from the National Farmers' Union, surely the most effective lobby in the country. Now he is applying his skills on behalf of the construction industry.

He heads an organization with just over 100 members, taking in building-material producers and merchants, some of the bigger builders, professional institutions such as those for architects and surveyors, and environmental-health officers.

The power industries — coal, gas and electricity — were among the founders, but the NHIC does not hide beneath a cloak of public service altruism; its aim is primarily to increase business for those who share the £4,000 million home-improvement market.

The scale of the present housing crisis can be gauged from the council's estimate that £46,000 million needs to be spent in the private and public sectors to bring the country's homes to a basic minimum standard. This figure may be difficult to comprehend, but it represents about £2,300 a household.

Mr Cantle said: "It doesn't all have to be spent in one go, of course. The Government cannot be expected to hand it over on a plate. It is a fact of life, nevertheless, that 'the poorest people live in the worst housing, and they need financial support to put their house right'.

It has been the policy of successive governments since 1919 to provide housing, through local authorities, for those least able to house themselves. It was a mistake, he believes, to attempt to dismantle this policy almost overnight. When Labour's housing minister, Anthony Crosland, told councils in 1974 that "the party is over", he was referring to new houses. Unfortunately, in the Housing Green Paper three years later, no account was taken of deterioration of existing housing stock.

Buildings deteriorate rapidly if repairs and maintenance are not carried out, and investment is needed as a preventative measure. Recent governments of both parties have neglected this, while some abroad — in West Germany, for example — plan to introduce "tax breaks" for home-owners carrying out such work.

Mr Cantle said: "Housing subsidy is not like food subsidy. Some sectors of society simply cannot do anything at all without 90 per cent to 100 per cent support."

While this week's White Paper anticipates a far greater role for housing associations in looking after social needs, they are not geared up to do it, Mr Cantle commented: "The goal posts have been moved in the middle of the game."

So the role of agency services, such as the council's **Raising £2 million has not been easy**

Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme (NRS), becomes an important factor in dealing with the backlog of repairs and maintenance. The failure of the Government's assisted houses purchasing scheme has exacerbated the situation.

Mr Cantle has had to raise £2 million for the NRS scheme, to match the £2 million from the Government announced last year, and it has not been easy.

His other main challenge has been in identifying local authorities as voluntary partners in the four pilot projects at Bedford, Sheffield, Gloucester and Oldham. Fourteen councils originally expressed



Ernest Cantle, director of the National Home Improvement Council: a frank analysis

an interest, but there was some scepticism that the NHIC was a Trojan horse of the Government's privatization plans.

Mr Cantle admits, with a chuckle, that his experience of marketing to East European countries before he joined the NFU had come in useful when dealing with some inner-city local authorities. "We do not," he said, "go into an area until we have signed legal heads of agreement that we are in partnership with the council."

Most of the houses in the pilot project areas were built before 1919. There is a large proportion of owner-occupation, to ensure there is access to private funds. The local authority must agree to make home-improvement grants available.

Under the NRS scheme, the NHIC provides a project manager and sets him or her up in a local office. A showhouse is then improved to demonstrate to local residents what can be achieved. The manager helps home-owners with grant applications, sources of private finance and professional skills, nominates approved builders and manages the project.

Mr Cantle has noticed a change in local-authority attitudes towards the scheme. "When we started in 1983 negotiations used to take six to nine months," he said. "Now the attitude seems to be 'Is that all the private sector can do for us?', and 'When can you start?'"

Lobbying the banks and building societies to get in-

### More money to be provided?

volved can also be a lengthy process; up to two years. This makes the support of Mr Cantle's blue-chip member-companies all the more important.

It takes about four years for pilot project managers to get their areas up and running. But if these projects prove a success, Mr Cantle sees no reason there should not be 300 around the country.

At present, he is on target to sign up 25 local authorities by the middle of next year. Five more agreements will be signed today for Buxton, Gresley (on the Leicestershire/Derbyshire border),

Coalville, Hyndburn (East Lancashire) and Hastings.

Today's NHIC presentation on its Neighbourhood Revitalization Services Scheme aims to give local authorities and the private sector a better understanding of the NRS and to tell them of the need to support stage-three projects with more funding.

Mr Cantle believes the Government could do more by providing security and continuity of funding on its part; contributing more generously to start-up costs than matching pound-for-pound what comes from the private sector, and involving NHIC in the formulation of housing policy.

The private sector, for its part, needs to be more positive and entrepreneurial towards government policy, he believes.

A clearing house for construction industry lobbying is necessary. How well the NHIC succeeds with its Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme will be keenly assessed by more than those just concerned with housing.

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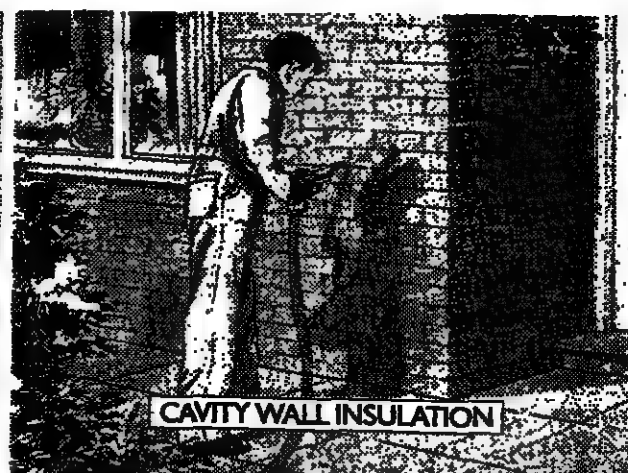


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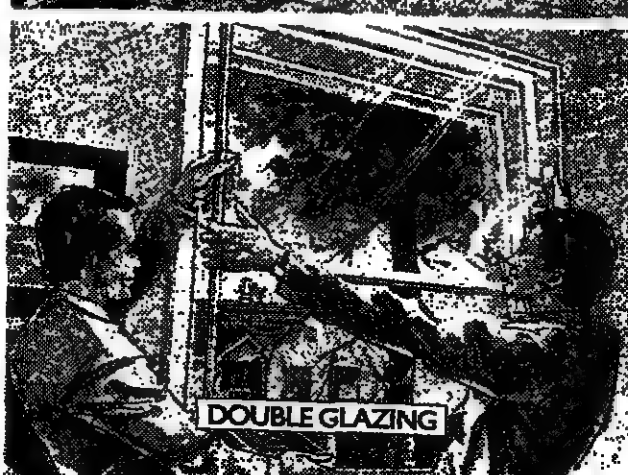
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## FOCUS

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REVITALIZATION/3Can people power start to  
revive a rundown area?

Hillsborough in Sheffield, to the north-west of the city centre, was the first Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme (NRS) to be set up by the National Home Improvement Council. It was started in 1985 and Sheffield city council, through its housing investment programme, agreed to make £1 million in grants available over the following two years.

Because of a fairly slow initial take-up of the grant money, that cash has eventually been spread over three instead of two years and has now all been allocated. It should all be spent by the end of the current financial year.

After that, any improvements to be carried out in Hillsborough will have to be paid for out of residents' pockets. That will be the true test of how successful the Hillsborough NRS has been.

Hillsborough, typical of many residential areas in our cities — a turn-of-the-century, brick-terrace, two-up, two-down neighbourhood, is experiencing all of the problems associated with housing in those areas.

Basically the external envelope of such homes has reached the point where substantial improvements and repairs are needed in many cases. When Hillsborough NRS was set up, surveys revealed that the average cost for repairs would be £4,500 a house — to many people a very large sum of money.

Substantial repairs  
often needed

So most repairs in the area had been carried out on a piece-meal, stop-gap basis, or not carried out at all, and within the area there were several properties in very bad condition. Action was needed in order to prevent the area from sliding into a much worse condition within a few years.

In that sense the NRS scheme was a device used to raise people's consciousness about their own neighbourhood and take up the responsibility of preventing that decline from becoming a reality.

Paul Weston who co-ordinated the Hillsborough NRS from its inception, said: "We set out to prove that Hillsborough is a good place in which to live and that it will remain a good place and I think we've proved that."

The power behind a successful NRS, and broadly speaking Hillsborough has been a success, is the people.

From the start Hillsborough NRS has been in the hands of residents who have, with the help of professionals, decided their strategy and targets and it is this "bottom-up" approach, espoused by community architects and their patron Prince Charles, which has become the new philosophy for most inner-city endeavours.

The £1 million that the city council put in the pot 2½ years ago, which then represented 10 per cent of the estimated repair bill for the area and its 2,500 homes, has attracted almost a similar amount in private funding, Paul Weston estimates.

The results of that expenditure, as intended, are visible throughout the area. Res-

idents adopted a strategy designed to tackle both the worse and most visible blocks in the area at the start.

Clumps of six or more houses were targeted, and it was decided that works to the external envelope of the building, the most visible part, would receive priority when it came to handing out grants. This meant that the money was spent on new roofs, new joinery, repointing, new rain-water goods, paths and fences — and, of course, structural repairs.

Several owners opted to spend more of their own money, either borrowed or saved, on improving the interiors by installing central heating or new bathrooms and kitchens.

The visual message to other residents was considered to be all-important. Once people could see that their neighbours were prepared to spend money on repairs, it was hoped that would get the ball rolling throughout the area.

Over the three years, according to Paul Weston, and John Lee of Ritchie and Rennie, the architects who have supervised many of the home-improvement jobs, a lot of owners have sold their improved properties, and made handsome profits. And those houses that have been improved sell more easily.

Traditionally Hillsborough is a predominantly owner-occupied area, with 85 per cent of the houses there falling into this category. It is an area favoured by first time buyers, and there is a fairly substantial amount of elderly people who own their own properties. The houses are worth between £18,000 to £20,000 at the moment.

Because of the existence of the NRS, Hillsborough's residents have been able to pop into the NRS office and get free advice on what sort of works they can get grants for and how to raise finance for any gap between the grant and the cost of those works.

The Halifax Building Society has provided a mortgage adviser one day a week to help people raise loans to accompany grants. This is an important service for older people, many of whom have a pressing need to carry out repairs, or improvements to reduce their running costs, but little income to tackle such jobs.

Free consultations  
on energy matters

The Halifax, and many other societies, have helped with loans designed for older people, and for other residents. Also, as part of the NRS scheme, the Association for the Conservation of Energy, provides a free consultancy service on energy conservation measures.

Now close on 200 properties have had a wide range of improvements carried out. This is, Paul Weston admits, a much lower figure than the residents initially aimed for, which was about 240 a year, and which he says residents soon realized was unrealistic.

Slow initial take-up of grants, because of the problems of streamlining the necessary office work to get grants out to people and those associated with co-ordinating public and private cash, meant the NRS had to ask the city council to extend the time

period over which its money would be spent.

But valuable lessons have been learnt which can be applied to other NRS schemes.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson that NRS staff learnt was that people have a great deal of common sense and perception about the value of their own neighbourhoods and that given the means they are the best people to organize improvements. If they are motivated, much more can be

Better work for  
a fair price

achieved than if a solution is imposed on them.

Also, by involving an architect at an early stage to advise on the sort of works required and the likely cost, and then for the architect to supervise the contract, takes a lot of the sweat and worry out of improvements for home owners.

If the community architecture approach is adopted, where the architect is available for a chat in a corner shop office, "then people begin to realize that architects aren't strange bods in fancy offices".

according to Paul Weston, and they use them to find the necessary confidence to take a decision to go-ahead.

An important result of involving architects in the NRS scheme has been to ensure that local builders are controlled and turn in better work for a fair price. Generally, small builders, rather than larger contractors, have adopted an approach to the work that has pleased residents.

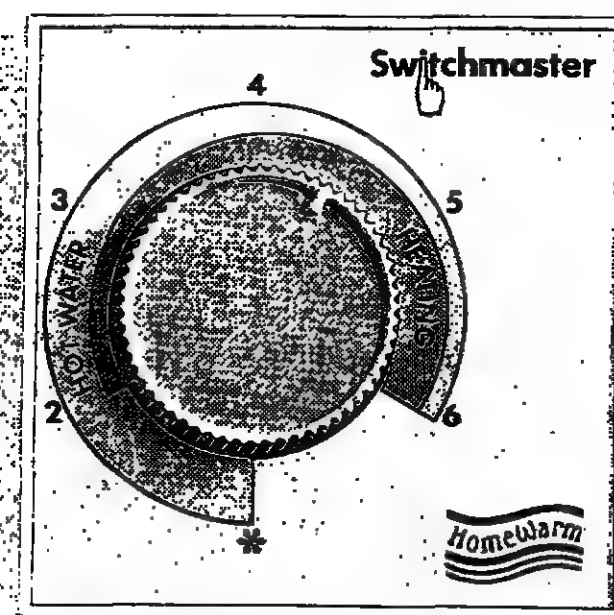
A local architect, John Lee, found that the smaller builder used a more personalized approach and communicated with the client much better than the larger firm, which would appear to tackle the works as though properties were not being lived in.

Now the NRS's aim is to keep the ball rolling. If it can encourage people to continue to improve their homes in Hillsborough using private funding, the local office will stay open and Ritchie and Rennie will continue to provide their architectural agency service for residents.

Lee Mallett  
News Editor, *Building Design*



The size of the problem: unmodernized houses scheduled for improvement by the Hillsborough revitalization scheme

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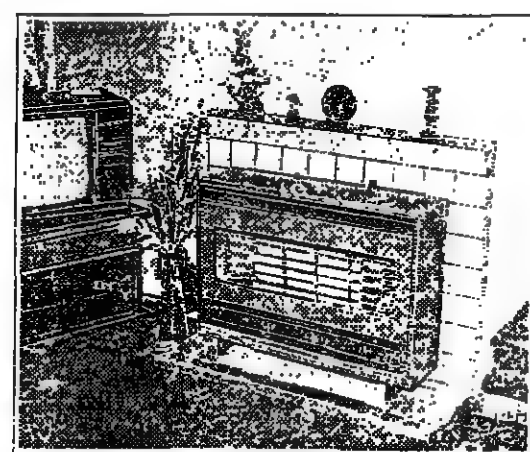
Budget central heating is a model of efficiency. A straight-forward, wall-mounted 6 kW gas heat generator pumps heat to the radiators and to a factory insulated, single pipe hot water cylinder. This is done through either a simple to operate manual comfort control or alternatively via a "comfort" selector linked back to a motorised valve.

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## THE PROOF

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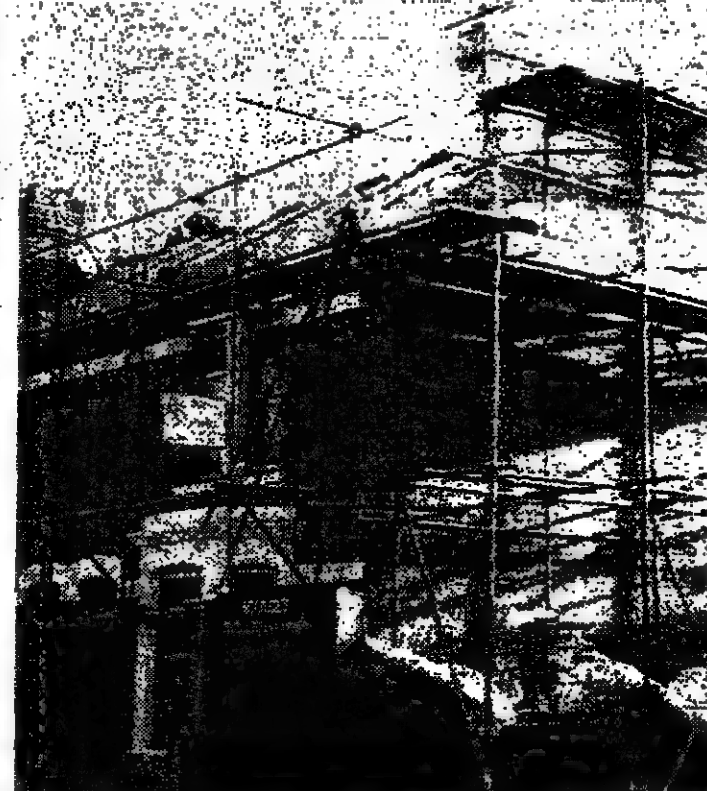
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REVITALIZATION/4

## FOCUS

## Improving Britain's decaying housing stock can often present problems between the partners



There were high hopes of a successful housing revitalization venture when Sir George Young, then a Parliamentary Under-Secretary, toured Gloucester with city officials, left. But the partnership between the city and the NRS project organizers became fraught. The present mayor, Andrew Gravells, accuses the NRS of not spending the grants made available. "We did everything for them except spending the money," he says. Glenn Parker, the NRS project manager, claims the city council "never contributed positively to management. They were there more to criticize and veto."



## 'Partners' who fell out

The Mayor of Gloucester and Neville Hobday have never met. If they did, they might have some interesting tales and advice to swap. The mayor, Andrew Gravells, is also chairman of the housing committee of the Conservative-controlled council. Mr Hobday is chief environmental health officer of the Conservative North Bedfordshire Council.

Both are intimately involved in NRS projects. Both are heavily committed to improving poor housing in their areas. Yet while Bedford has possibly the most successful partnership between the NRS and the local authority, the relationship in Gloucester has been fraught with criticism and unhelpful inactivity on both sides.

Partnership with local authorities is the key to the NRS's success. The aim is to identify areas of housing in urgent need of improvement, then work with the local authority to get the job done as efficiently as possible.

The NRS usually relies on local authority grants. In turn, it gives hard-pressed local authorities free additional help. The authorities might think they could do the job just as well themselves given the extra resources, but are unlikely to turn down the offer of a helping hand when it is available.

That is the theory. In practice, some partnerships work better than others. The contrast between Bedford and Gloucester provides lessons for more successful partnerships in the future.

Bedford's success is partly due to the willingness of the authority to accept help where it can find it. It had been focusing on specific housing projects since the early 1970s. Mr Hobday said: "The NRS work fitted in with our philosophy. We felt that they would assist us and give additional impetus to our programme."

The authority's patience with faults and grateful acceptance of the benefits also helped the partnership to

## Not all the grant money was used

work. Mr Hobday, for instance, is disappointed that the project has not generated more private funding. It also took far longer to get off the ground than he had expected. After putting aside £50,000, or a fifth of his housing capital budget, for grants in the first year, he found that money was not all used because of the time it took to get the project going.

Far from ditching the entire exercise, however, he is keen to extend it as part of his housing programme, and is quick to point out its merits. The chief one, in his view, is the NRS agency in the area, run in Bedford by the Aldwyck housing trust.

Mr Hobday said: "It is crucial to the success of any scheme. One of the difficulties we have is getting people such as the elderly or the ethnic community to take advantage of grants and get involved with home improvements."

The agency takes the bureaucracy out of things. It encourages people, fills in the forms, handles the technical drawings, gets the builders in and supervises the process. The quality of the building work has improved dramatically.

Bedford's progress. Mr Hobday is certain, is above all explained by the commitment of those involved. The authority has three ward

members on the project committee, has firmly committed itself to the project for seven years, and has cut red tape to allow grants to go to the most needy and for whatever type of work is required.

Some authorities demand block schemes: Bedford lets work go on here and there in line with demand — known in the trade as "pepper-potting".

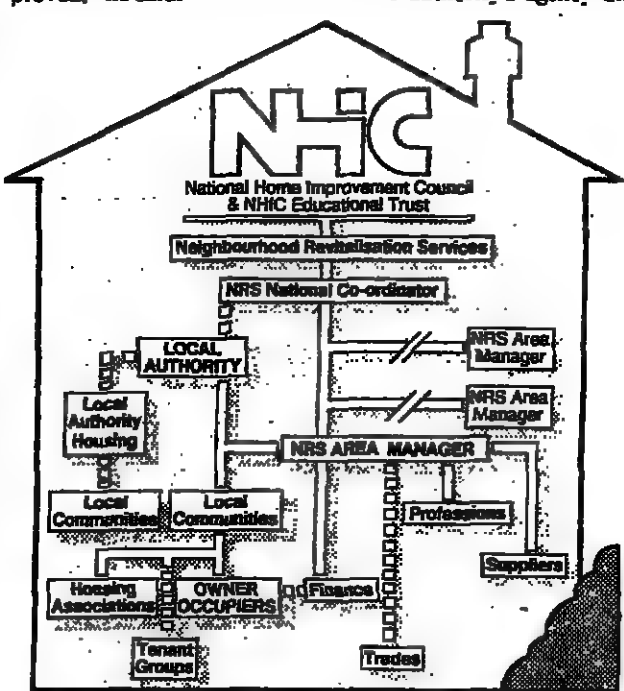
The result has been a flood of applications, which has consumed staff time and caused a deal of administrative difficulties.

Mr Hobday says, moreover, that the NRS and agency is doing nothing that the council could not do itself given the funds. But resentment is the last thing he feels. "I'm not too concerned so long as I'm getting the housing improved," he said.

ter project manager, found that his previous position as trainee housing adviser at Gloucester City Housing Department gave him no advantages in improving the situation. "We had no patterns to go by," he said. "I hadn't appreciated what was involved. Relations with the city council broke down."

Mr Parker strikes back at the attitude of the council — on the management committee, for example. He said: "They sat on the committee but never contributed positively to the management. They were there more to criticize and veto."

He also accuses the authority of changing grant policies to make his job more difficult and for setting up its own agency in nearby streets. The authority's agency did



The main difference between Bedford and Gloucester is clearly a different reaction to much the same problems. In all pilot projects, the prime difficulty has been the gaining of initial momentum.

In Gloucester this caused more frustration than elsewhere. "There was an inability to spend the money allocated for improvement grants," said the highly critical mayor. "It was a complete nonsense being unable to spend the money. The area is desperately in need and there's plenty that needs money spent on it."

The NRS manager's plea that these things take time meets with a stony reception. "We told them who was on the waiting list. We gave them a house conditions survey. We did everything for them apart from spending the money," says the mayor.

"They raised hopes," he continues. "And they let people down. Umpteen people were referred to me on the housing committee for help."

Glenn Parker, the Gloucester

not get the chance to operate, however, because of government cuts in the housing grant, something which also affected the NRS. In the second year, the grant ran dry.

"If we had had that money," said Mr Parker, "we would have proved that the programme was worthwhile."

The cuts also lost the NRS the services of the architects who had run its housing agency. It is starting again with three small design consultants, which it believes will work more efficiently.

The council, for its part, has made over a new grant of £75,000, which the mayor calls a "sign of our good faith". The mayor says that he is all for the concept of the NRS in principle — it is just the practical shortcomings that give him concern.

Unlike Bedford, however, Gloucester has not committed itself to grant aid beyond this year, perhaps revealing a continuing lack of confidence that the "partnership" will ultimately work.

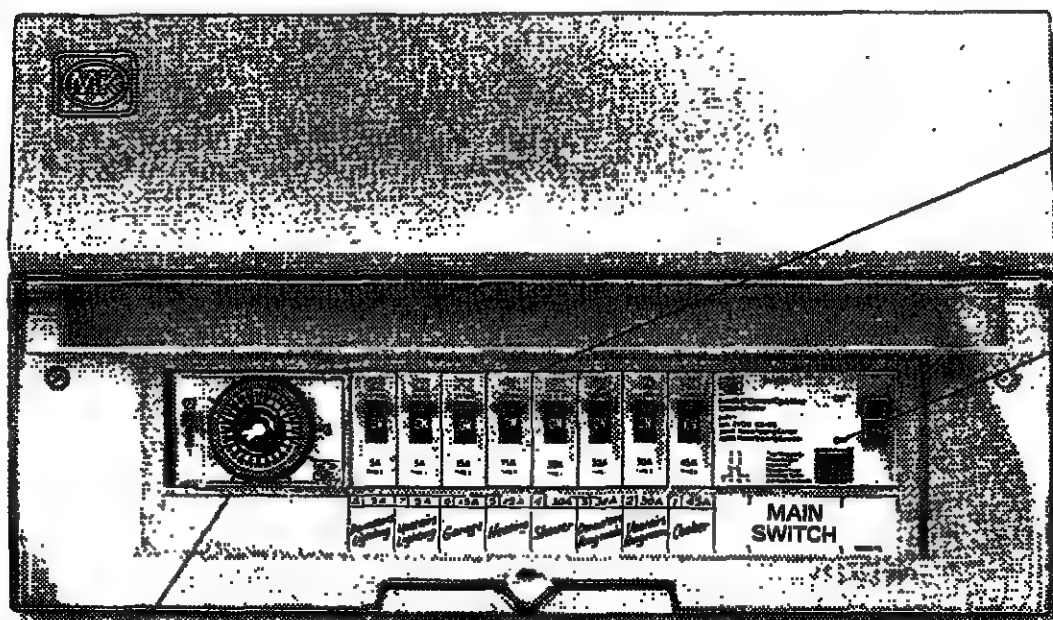
Debra Isaac

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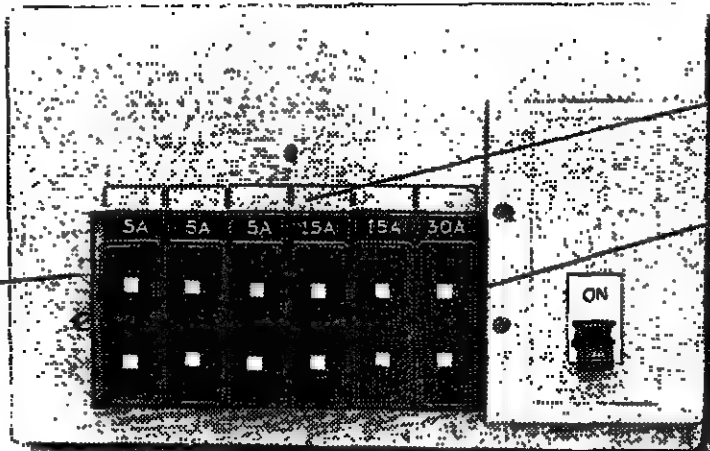
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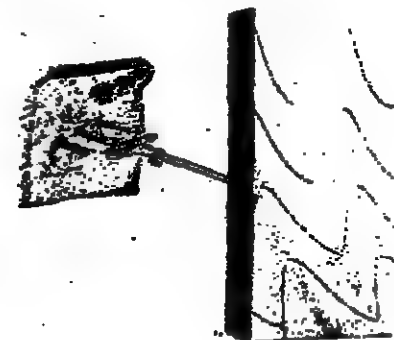
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## FOCUS

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REVITALIZATION/5

## The risks architects face

Work on the NRS schemes can prove attractive to the smaller architect firms, but for bigger outfits the profit margins are often not worth it, reports Charles Knevitt

Personal satisfaction rather than financial reward is what the Neighbourhood Revitalization Services scheme has to offer architects. At least, that is the experience of two firms that have been commissioned for the latest pilot project, in Gloucester.

Neil Vesma is a one-man-band, with two part-time assistants, working on eight houses for the local project co-ordinator. He said: "The type of work on offer is more attractive to the smaller practice like mine, where commissions worth between £200 and £2,000 make an important contribution to salaries and overheads."

"It is a very different service working with the individual homeowner rather than a corporate client with corporate decision-making and finance."

The NRS office makes all the initial approaches for him, arranges finance for repairs and improvement and co-ordinates the whole process. He likes the way a comprehensive service is offered and the consistency of the workload, and is confident that he will continue working on the scheme for many years. There are a surprising number of houses in Gloucester with no indoor toilets, he added.

The main drawback is that the risk of ever getting paid is much higher: usually the client pays for drawings and

To them, no grant means no pay

specifications irrespective of whether a grant application is successful. Under the NRS, no grant means no pay.

His task is easier because potential clients are recommended to him, once the NRS has satisfied itself of the architect's credentials and that he has professional indemnity insurance cover. But at the end of the day, the no-grant, no-pay policy "lessens the risk for grannies and transfers it to me," said Mr Vesma.

Last week, Richard Archer left the Gloucester practice of Dancy and Meredith, where he worked on NRS houses. Full improvement agency services were provided by his firm, from surveying to going out to tender, appointing contractors and supervising construction work.

But Bob Priest, a partner in the firm, said: "We learnt one hell of a lesson and have now decided to undertake no further work for NRS. The problem was that we had a whole series of clients spending small amounts of money—£2,000 to £4,000 a house. The

legal niceties required individual contracts for each one.

"Much of our time was taken up in dealing with the complications of each contract, preparing tailor-made specifications, chasing the smaller builders who carry out this sort of contract, securing funding and managing it on behalf of our clients."

His partners had decided it was worth trying to carry out such small-scale works, even though the practice employs 25 people and has a workload with commercial, industrial, housing association and health-care buildings.

They were expecting bulk orders, with blocks of several terraces to improve simultaneously. In fact, the work was fragmented with single houses often in separate streets.

Mr Priest said: "I think the NRS scheme is basically a good idea, but it suits smaller architectural practices. During our first year we went through a very slow learning curve. We were offered a fee of 5% per cent (of contract value), managed to increase this to 6% per cent, but still it did not pay."

In the Gloucester area, typical three-bedroom terrace houses sell for about £20,000, perhaps £25,000 if they are in a good state of repair. Much of



Revival: a green oasis now embellishes a once dying area

the improvement work is on external walls and the roof, but even so Mr Priest believes that the long-term value of investing in them is marginal. He said: "Some are worth saving, many are not. The problem is that they would cost more to demolish and rebuild, so I see the work as short-term expediency."

Dancy and Meredith has

One of the big upsets was the decision by the city council not to release any grant funding during the period from last December to July, and the bureaucratic red tape in getting the approved grants released to pay for work.

Under the terms of the contract, builders had to be paid within 14 days, but this

The unpaid builders walked off site

was never actually achieved. In many cases it took 50 to 60 days, by which time the builders had walked off the site. Dancy and Meredith, as the architect, was responsible for making the stage payments, although the firm did not control the purse-strings.

Mr Priest commented: "It would have helped if we had full control of the funding, either by the council making a block grant to NRS or the funding coming direct from the Environment Department."

It is to be hoped that the National Home Improvement Council will learn some of these lessons in the second-phase pilot projects on which it is about to embark.

## Dismay over lack of private funding

At the start, project organizers in North Bedfordshire aimed for £3 of private money for every £1 of public. They got between 40 and 48p, reports Debra Isaac

John Moore, the Social Services Secretary, may have caused a stir last weekend when he launched his campaign to promote individual self-help and independence, but those working on the NRS schemes took up the crusade first.

Unfortunately, they were also first in discovering the formidable problems involved in getting people to help themselves financially, and in overcoming years and years of government dependency.

One of the principal aims of the NRS schemes is to stimulate private sector investment in the nation's declining housing stock. The idea is to organize and assist residents, homeowners, businesses and lending institutions, including the banks and building societies, to step up their efforts to raise finance to support the efforts of the local authorities and the Government.

After 2½ years, however, the campaign to mobilize more private sector funds has clearly failed. The NRS admits as much, and even supportive local authorities say that the lack of response from the private sector has been one of the major disappointments so far.

"At the start, we aimed for £3 of private money for every £1 of public," says Neville Hobday, chief environmental health officer for North Bedfordshire Council.

The actual ratio, he says, is £1 of public money for every 40p of private (the local project manager says £1 of public for every 48p private). This means that of the £1.2 million so far put into the Bedford Queens Park scheme, more than two-thirds has been financed by the public sector.

The ratios are similar in the other three pilot schemes at Sheffield, Gloucester and Oldham which have also yet to see large inflows of new private sector funds.

"We are not meeting the original concepts," says Mr Hobday. "The Government and the NRS must be very concerned."

The NRS is, indeed, concerned. Terry Brunt, national general manager, makes the usual comments about a great deal of private investment going un-monitored. The NRS, he says, advises countless people who may then quietly go away and get their repairs done privately (or who may not — nobody knows).

Mr Brunt admits, however, that the schemes have come up against two major barriers to private investment. The first is that while grants have been available, or likely to become available if you join a waiting list, people have preferred to wait rather than part with their own funds.

The second is that the schemes tend to be directed towards the most badly run-down areas, and these tend to be inhabited by the most needy people — the unemployed, elderly, single-parent mothers, and so on — all of whom are likely to need, and be most readily entitled to, sizeable grants.

The targeting towards the needy isn't a principle built into NRS policy at national level. Local committees tend to take it up. Owen Pantoni, project manager at Queens Park, argues that by concentrating on better-off people, instead, people who need less grant and can find more money themselves, the gear-

ing between public and private sector contributions would be improved, and more work completed.

The problem of improving the poorer housing stock in more deprived areas would still remain, however.

Because of the problems of raising private sector finance, grant aid is essential. "It gives us credibility and the ability to make a long-term commitment," says Mr Pantoni.

His client profile shows how the public and private sector elements are made up. The residents may be asked to contribute anything from £400 to £8,000. On average, they are finding a third of the money needed, the authority



Terry Brunt, the NRS national general manager

paying the rest. Around one in three pay their element from savings — the thriving ethnic community being conscientious savers, says Mr Pantoni. Another third comes from extending mortgages, and the other third from borrowing on unsecured properties.

Mr Pantoni couldn't think of any case which had gone ahead without a grant and, even with grant aid, there is marked reluctance to find the rest of the funds privately.

"Our perception of people's needs is often very different to their own," says Mr Pantoni. "The drop-out rate because of cost is more than 50 per cent." Elderly people, in particular, often prefer to live in poor housing, to which they are accustomed, rather than take out a loan in old age or suffer the disturbance of building work, which may even entail a temporary move.

Oddly, the easiest cases to deal with are often the worst, where someone on supplementary benefit is able to secure DHSS support for the element that has to be borrowed from the private sector. Mr Pantoni, for example, is currently helping a woman of 70 who is borrowing £5,000 after getting a grant of £9,000.

The "impossible" cases when it comes to private money are where someone is unemployed, already has a high mortgage, and may already be in arrears. Not

surprisingly, it is difficult to get new money in such circumstances.

The huge dependence on the public sector has so far given only a limited role to building societies and other financial institutions. There are around 22 lending bodies in Bedford, including building societies such as the Halifax and Gateway which are committed to the project and whose staff sit on NRS committees and give up their own time to give financial advice.

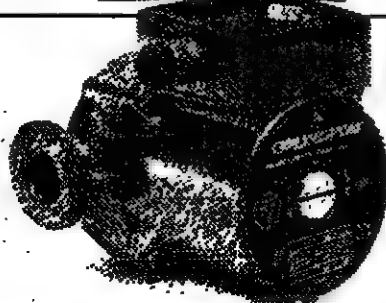
So far, however, the Bedford project has completed only 115 properties, much on grant aid. Spread the need for private finance around the lending institutions, all of which are falling over themselves to lend to good borrowers, and most have had a maximum of half-a-dozen cases to deal with.

"When we started, it was all 'stand by world, here we come'," says Mr Pantoni. In practice, the total amount of work done would, he says, have represented merely a week's turnover at his old building firm.

The NRS fervently hopes that in future it will mobilize more money from the private sector. New projects such as the one at Hastings will sink or swim on the private sector injection as no grant aid is available. After Sheffield's £1 million runs out, it, too, will have to fall back on self-help.

But no one is deluding themselves that the task will be easy. "People still think the Government will provide," says Mr Brunt. "On present trends, it won't. But people still don't believe it yet."

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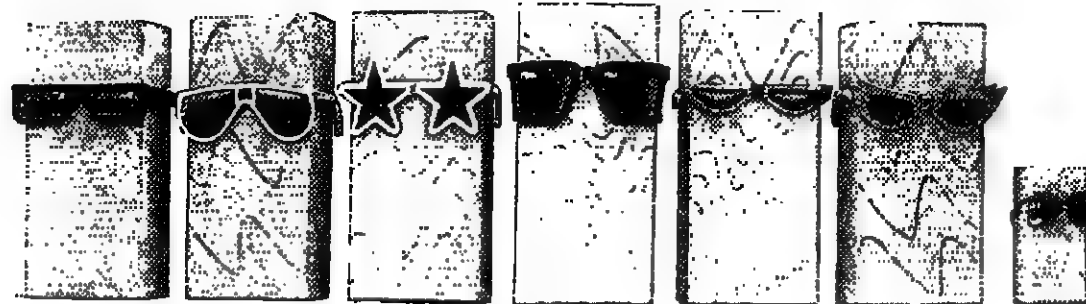
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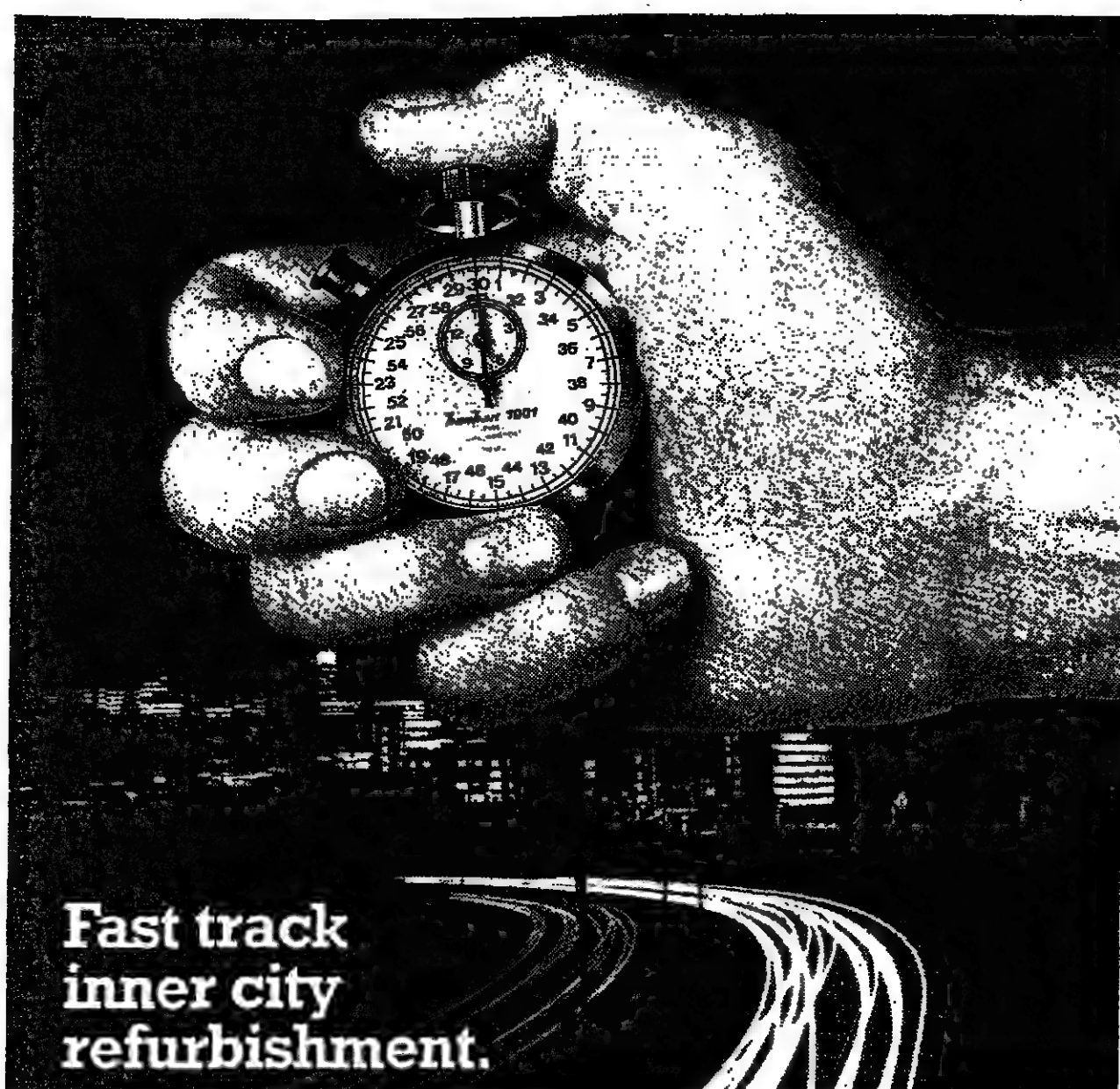
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## NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION/6

## FOCUS



## Keeping cosy cheaply

The type of housing subject to work in the neighbourhood revitalization programme is precisely the type that can benefit most by energy-conservation measures.

Britain has the worst-insulated and least-effectively heated housing stock in Northern Europe; more than a billion pounds a year is wasted in unnecessarily high fuel bills. Much of the type of work that can be done costs only a few pounds and has a quick effect on comfort levels and on gas and electricity bills.

Loft insulation and tank lagging is often absent from older properties; the savings it can produce are instantly felt. As new windows go in, better draught-proofing can be installed and often sealed double-glazing units can be as cheap as new units, especially when ordered in bulk for a large renewal scheme. Additionally, when new damp-proofing is being installed - often a necessity in older properties which may have had only rudimentary damp courses installed when built - some type of wall insulation can be cheaply added.

Central heating can be upgraded and new controls fitted which can have a dramatic effect on consumption without affecting heating levels and in areas where solid fuel is still a preferred method of heating, the new type of appliances developed by British Coal can cut consumption by as much as half while still providing more heat than before.

Another potential saving can come when new bath and kitchen appliances are added and in older property a modern shower replacing an old bath can produce savings which can be seen almost from the first electricity bill onwards.

Now the Association for the Conservation of Energy has become involved in the neighbourhood-renewal scheme to bridge the gap between the householder and the Department of Energy energy-efficiency campaign.

The campaign has created awareness of energy efficiency among householders but the association has found that many householders are still confused about how exactly they can benefit.

With funding from the department, it has provided a full-time adviser to operate on the NRS project at Sheffield who is providing advice to the householders in the area as well as to enable the association to plan more effectively how it will also help in future neighbourhood-regeneration schemes. The association is determined that it will play a similar role in as many of the 20-odd proposed schemes now under discussion.

Andrew Warren, the association's



Andrew Warren, association director: individual unbiased advice

director, said: "By having an adviser on the spot, we are able to give householders individual unbiased advice on what they can do to cut their fuel bills. We are able to say what type of measures will work for them and what type won't."

"The Department of Energy has done a good job in publicizing its campaign, but there is no link available to give individuals the advice and help they often need as there is in countries such as the United States and in Denmark."

"Individuals can go into their electric-

ity boards and get advice, but it will be about electrical appliance related matters and the same thing will happen when they go to a gas-board showroom."

"It is ironic that the Government will help an industrial or commercial customer with finance for a fuel-efficiency study so that they can get specific advice, but there is not such service available for the householder. We have to learn from the experiences of other countries because out of the £7 billion that the Government estimates can be saved by the nation by energy conservation, £2 billion will have to come from the domestic sector."

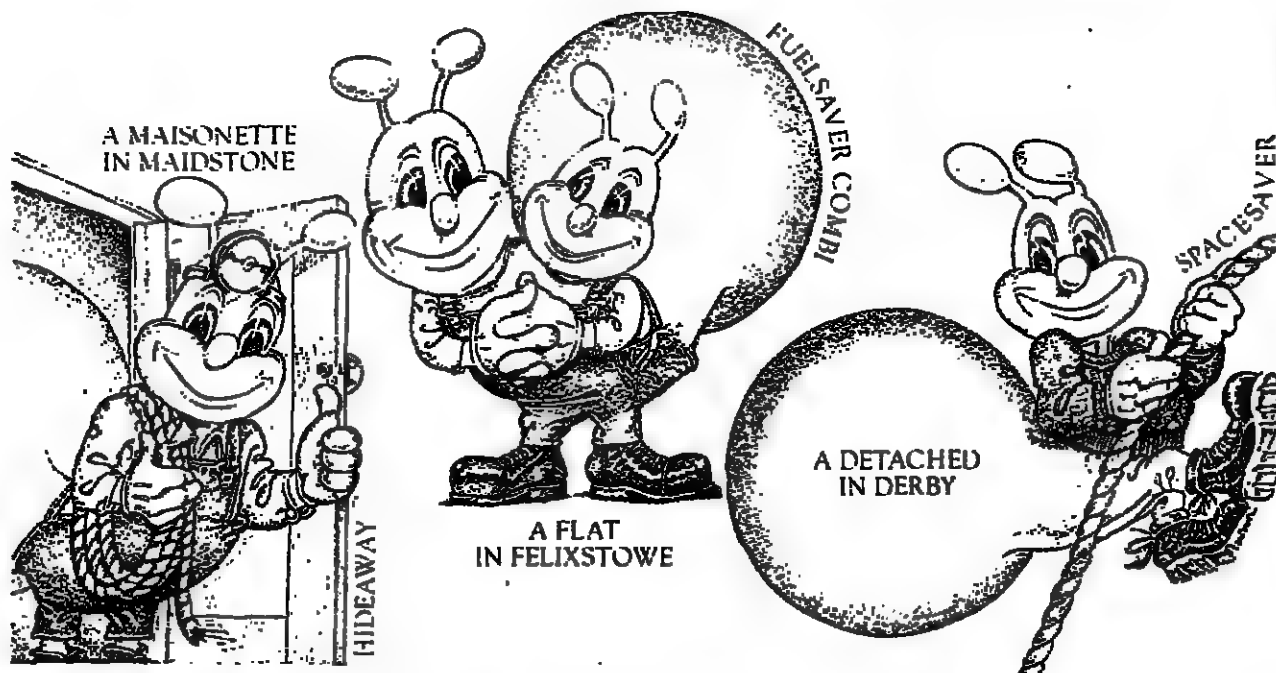
The association has drawn on lessons learned as part of its study of energy conservation measures being undertaken in the United States which it conducted in conjunction with Neighbourhood Energy Action.

Mr Warren said: "Every British winter brings fresh horror stories concerning those unable to afford to help keep themselves warm. Our American studies demonstrate clearly that such problems can be avoided."

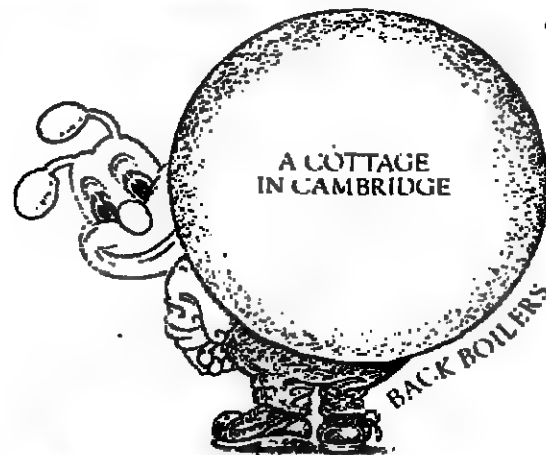
"What are required are positive responses from central and local government and gas and electricity utilities alike, to ensure that before this winter is out, every household is put in touch with people who can insulate their homes."

David Green, honorary secretary of Neighbourhood Energy Action, said: "It is patently ridiculous that there is no mechanism within the DHSS, British Gas or the electricity boards systematically to refer lower-income households with fuel-payment problems to their nearest Neighbourhood Energy Action project. This could substantially boost productivity for local NEA projects, and help relieve the fuel industry of a growing and expensive problem with consumer debt."

David Young



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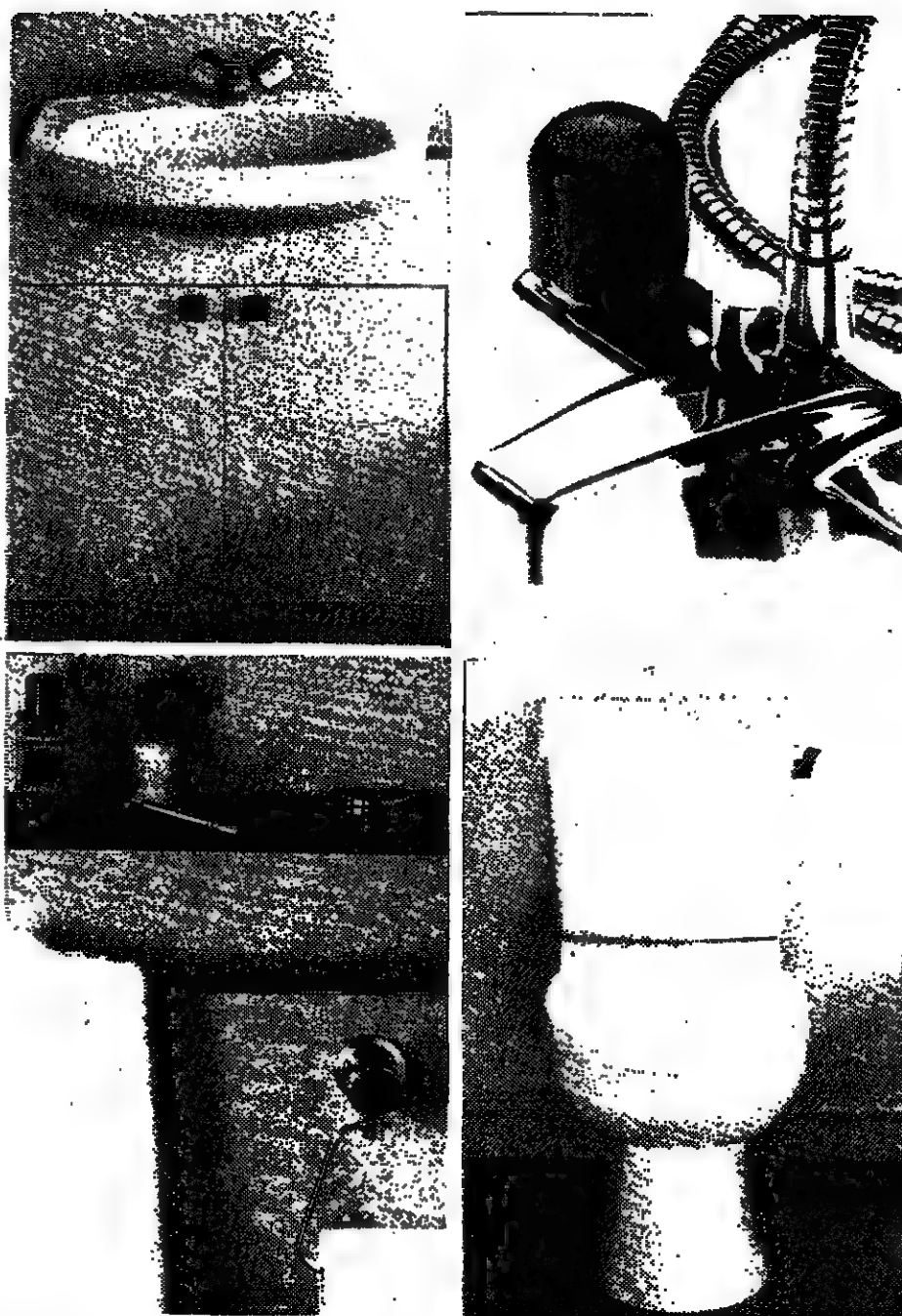
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## FOCUS

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REVITALIZATION/7

## Banking on the builder

A group approach to improvements brings tangible cost cuts

A philanthropic glow is about the only reward now being enjoyed by the big builders' merchants who have given so much time and enthusiasm towards the setting-up of the four neighbourhood revitalization schemes.

This is because the numbers of bricks and mortar, tiles and toilets, supplied for the few hundred renovations in Bedford, Oldham, Gloucester and Sheffield is relatively low. But it is already clear that for the small but solid builders — and in turn the owners — of the up-graded homes, the benefits flowing from the NRS pilot projects are tangible, and can be measured in cash.

On the 50 or so homes improved in Bedford, Nick Imber, director of the Aldwyck Housing Association which supervises building work, says that people are saving money.

He said: "We calculate that costs are 12 per cent lower than they would be if the householder went direct to the builder for the same job done on a one-off basis. And that includes our fee." The Aldwyck charges 10 per cent of the £10,000-to-£15,000 cost of the complete renovation of the Bedford houses.

In Sheffield, it is also clear that the group approach to improvements cuts costs. John Lee of Ritchie and Rennie, the architects firm supervising the Hillsborough scheme, shows how.

"We get a dozen builders we trust to tender for typical items of work like repointing a certain type of window or changing a front door," he said. "Then we ask them all if they will do the jobs for prices about halfway between the average and the bottom figures."

He is not sure whether this makes it cheaper than employing a cowboy builder for cash. Probably not. "But for the standard of work people are getting good value," he said.

Mr Lee added that the standards being set are changing perceptions. "People come around and look at the work we are supervising, and they can see for themselves what good work looks like. And

they demand it for themselves."

Bill Turner of C & W Builders in Sheffield has "revamped the outside" of 30 houses on the Sheffield scheme. His two-partner firm starts five more this week. He works on Lee's two-thirds of the top-price formulae.

He said: "We lost a little bit on some of the prices. But the work is OK so long as you get six or seven in a row. We used to do a lot for the town hall — but that has stopped now."

Mr Turner said there is not much difference doing improvement for the council and for the NRS. "We have just changed from an environmental officer to an architect. But in some respects we have less to do with the client, and if they want something extra we don't have to run to the town hall."

What happens now is that the owner asks Mr Turner whether he or she can paint a room or move a fireplace while the main work is being done.

On the Gloucester project,

the NRS has been persuaded to use only BEC or FMB members to protect clients.

Tim Lockyer, secretary of the Gloucestershire branch of the BEC, which represents larger contractors, said: "The work appeals only to a minority of our members."

Teething troubles over the way builders were being asked to price work on the Gloucester project were sorted out by the two associations, which both also offer guarantee schemes against bad workmanship, he said. "In the end the client gets a reputable builder and value for money."

Ian Jackson is just the sort of builder individual householders would never interest in their renovation, but is still working on the Bedford site.

"We treat the Queen's Park site as a bit of a stop-gap," he admitted. "We feel a certain loyalty as we were the first builders on the site. But there is an advantage in working with the Aldwyck — we don't have to deal with the public. We are not interested in that."

Jackson's company normally

deals in £300,000 to £400,000 contracts.

At the moment, enlightened self-interest fires the building material suppliers the four NRS projects.

Roy Stringer is chairman of the Cheltenham-based builders' merchants Sharpe & Fisher, and he runs the NRS executive committee. He said: "For us, it's essentially a long-term thing. Every merchant wants a pay-off. So the more the market can be stimulated by things like this, the more of a pay-off there will be. But social conscience is a big factor."

Brian Hobson of Graham Builders Merchants, Sheffield branch, said that it is about as altruistic as you can get. "But the roof-tile people had a birthday here," he added. He calculates to spend about 5 per cent of his time running the Hillsborough project committee where about 160 units will have been revamped by next spring.

But the merchants could do more said Nick Imber, director of the Aldwyck Housing Association, which specifies the materials to be used supervises the building work on the Bedford project.

"We are quite happy to encourage the use of merchants involved in NRS projects," he said. "But they have not gone out of their way to market themselves."

Mr Imber said that suppliers should be offering special deals to homeowners improving a property under the scheme.

Roy Stringer said: "The volume isn't there for us to do that sort of thing. But any merchant worth his salt will be looking hard at promotional ideas once the 25 new schemes get underway. Yet you must remember that the merchant is only a middleman."

With public money drying up, won't the NRS schemes wither?

No, said Brian Hobson, at least not in Sheffield. "The residents here have been a revelation," he explained. "They have been out with their chipboards in the rain deciding what work needs doing next."

Peter Bill Deputy Editor, Building

Most houses in the rundown Barton area of Gloucester are eligible for grants, but there are many problems

The neighbourhood project in the Barton area of Gloucester was the last of the four NRS pilot schemes to be set up. Work started in June 1986. It forms part of a larger overall improvement scheme for the city which involves traffic management, parking provision and housing rehabilitation.

Like the Hillsborough project in Sheffield, property in the Barton area is mostly owner-occupied Victorian brick terraces with some Edwardian semi-detached properties. There are a few large houses in multiple occupancy, and only 45 houses have been built since 1918.

The area is near the city centre and contains a wide racial mix. Many of the house-holders among the 1,600 properties were born outside Britain, mostly in the New Commonwealth or Pakistan. Gujarati is a widely spoken second language, and the area has two mosques.

Most houses are eligible for a renovation grant, the roofs were in a particularly bad state. Before the NRS project arrived, according to Glenn Parker, the project manager, there had been no repair grant strategy.

Grants were not targeted to particular types of work, or to especially needy groups, such as pensioners. The result has been piecemeal repairs here and there, or no repairs at all.

The NRS worked at the area street by street for maximum impact and made re-roofing a priority.

Gloucester City Council allocated £500,000 in grant aid for the area in 1986-87. This allowed the NRS to refurbish 50 properties in Clement and Howard streets.

Unlike the Sheffield project, which had a fixed budget of £1 million over three years, the Barton area project receives an annual grant and Mr Parker expected a further £500,000 for 1987-88. His grant was cut by three-quarters and he found himself with only £125,000 to spend.

"It crippled us for the first six months. It's had an anaesthetic effect. Some grants are trickling through, so peo-



Glenn Parker, the Gloucester NRS project manager, works in a mainly immigrant area

## Action, street by street

ple are waiting for grants for small jobs, rather than getting on with them themselves."

When funding was cut in December, £124,000 in grants for 34 houses had been approved. There were 130 more queuing for approval. The project has spent £62,000 this year, and what money there is being approved bit by bit. Their last £70,000 has just been agreed, but they are hoping to negotiate with the council so that the frozen streets can be reactivated.

The sudden reduction in funding caused local architects Dancy and Meredith to withdraw from the scheme at the end of their commitment. Mr Parker does not blame them. "You can't engage the private sector to work next year if you can't tell them what's going to happen."

To replace them, he made an experiment. All the other NRS projects had employed a single firm of architects. Parker took on three self-employed architects, all of whom had lived in Gloucester for some time and knew the Barton area. This has been very successful.

Architect Neil Vesma came into the NRS project about a year ago, when Dancy and Meredith withdrew. He has

been doing house renovation work in Gloucester for the last 10 years and is enthusiastic about the NRS scheme. "It's the first time that grant money and the people who need it have been brought together."

A unique feature of the NRS schemes is that the householder can ask the architect for plans and costings without having to pay a design fee, something which discouraged elderly people in particular.

A house in the Barton area will cost between £20,000 and £30,000 depending on its condition but, unlike Sheffield, there is very little mobility, and many residents have lived in the area for more than 30 years. The cost of repairs can vary between the £2,000 or so needed for a new roof, to £20,000 for a rebuild. The average repair will cost the householder back £8,000.

Up to 90 per cent may be reclaimed, to a maximum of £10,200, but only pensioners and cases of special hardship get the full 90 per cent rebate.

Like the other schemes, the Barton project has an advice office in the city centre, manned by a staff of 10, including five residents' liaison officers provided by the Manpower Services Commission Community Programme.

The officers mount exhibitions, answer the stream of enquiries, produce the newsletters that tell residents what's happening and organize group meetings with local people and ward councillors. "It's not a 9-to-5 project," says Gerry Lowe, the national co-ordinator. "During the day the people we want to talk to are at work."

Lessons were learned from the establishment of the Sheffield project. "We've been on a learning curve," he says. "We've speeded up getting the brief to the agent. Work comes in quickly and goes out quickly."

All Sheffield's clients and their accounts are now on computer and this has worked so well that the package will be made available to the three other NRS schemes.

The most important lesson, however, is to go in with as high a profile as possible. When the Sheffield project started, it operated from an estate agent's office, which was both cramped and intimidating, and it was some time before the community liaison team, the vital link with local people, could be gathered together.

This, Mr Lowe feels, was responsible for the initial slow take-up of grants in Sheffield. The approach in Gloucester was different. "We learned by our mistakes. We had our own very visible Barton Area NRS Project office, and our community liaison team right from day one."

Fiona Hook Building Design

## CIVIC SHIELD UPDATE

## Salford City Council's verdict: "It works!"

Before finally deciding on which refurbishment route to take, Salford City Council agreed to let NORWEB try a pilot scheme for Civic Shield.

They were pleasantly surprised at the result.

"We realised it just didn't make sense to switch fuels when you can so cost effectively refurbish the existing electrical installations to Civic Shield standards," Salford's Housing Manager, Mr Graham Caine, told us.

In fact, they were so impressed that, together with NORWEB, they went on to establish the requirements for refurbishing the remaining 6,000 electrically heated homes in their housing stock. Since then, Salford have improved 1,119 properties to this standard.

To date running costs have been considerably reduced and

levels of warmth and comfort much improved in these properties.

The five 10-storey tower blocks on the Cawder Street Estate in Eccles is one of their more recent success stories.

The insulation improvements included high-rise cavity wall insulation and new flat roofs with built-in insulation. Also all the many windows in each block were weather stripped. Then Economy 7 slimline storage heaters were in-

stalled, along with the standard Civic Shield Economy 7 water heating package.

And it was all done within the first three months of 1986, one of the coldest winters in memory, during which the workmen had to contend with ice, snow, biting winds, below freezing temperatures and even falling icicles!

As Salford City Council agree, Civic Shield obviously does work — whatever the weather!



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50,000 homes in the last seven years! That's how many homes have been built or upgraded to Civic Shield standards since the scheme was launched in 1979.

And Wigan lays claim to 300 of them. So it was fitting that the 50,000th home should be one of theirs.

It's a 3 bedroom semi on the Princes Avenue Estate in Tyldesley — one of 130 homes on this estate to be refurbished.

Like Salford, Wigan received great co-operation from NORWEB, who put together the most suitable specification for each home.

In the Fiddys semi, for example, new slimline storage heaters and a new hot water system with an Economy 7 cylinder were installed. The walls were insulated. Draught proofing was fitted. Old fireplaces

were removed. And the house was completely rewired.

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"Before the new heating was installed, we were freezing in winter," Vernon and Jean Fiddy told us.

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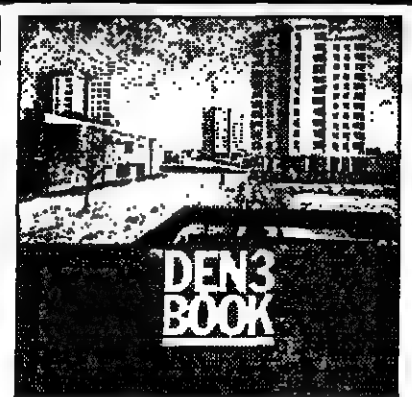
The total running costs of their home — not just for heating and hot water, but for all their electrical appliances — now averages out at just £8.25 a week.

And when, like the Fiddys, you have two small children and only the income from Vernon's job as a nursing assistant to live on, that makes all the difference in the world.

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# Care comes first for the elderly

Staying Put means old people can remain at home while their houses are repaired. The bill runs into millions

The twin problems of a decaying housing stock and what David Hobman, the director of Age Concern England, calls "the explosive growth of the rapidly greying element in our society" have focussed attention on the need for more projects — agency services — aimed at helping the elderly to carry on living in their own, properly-maintained homes.

The growing need for such services is there for all to see: the last national study, the 1981 English House Condition Survey, showed that 43 per cent (480,000) of homes classed as unfit were occupied by the elderly. If left alone, the housing problems experienced by the nation's "senior citizens" can only become more acute.

Government recognition of the problem came last year with the announcement that half of the £6 million needed to establish at least 50 new repair and improvement agency services would be met from public funds, with the private and voluntary sectors making up the balance.

Two-thirds of the government money was given to Neighbourhood Revitalization Services, an off-shoot of the building materials industry's National Home Improvement Council, and the remainder to the other leading and experienced organizations in the field: Care and Repair Ltd (for 21 schemes) and the Anchor Housing Trust (six schemes).

The concept of this kind of housing aid was firmly established in 1978-1979, when Shelter, the National Campaign for the Homeless, and

Help the Aged jointly sponsored a successful pioneering Care and Repair scheme at Ferndale in the Rhondda Valley, and the Anchor Housing Trust successfully set up in Bradford and Birmingham its first Staying Put schemes.

Care and Repair Ltd now has more than 20 schemes in operation, with and more in the pipeline, and Anchor will soon announce that £6 million has been spent under its Staying Put programme.

Care and Repair and Staying Put are the names for straightforward, uncomplicated projects which help the elderly to stay in their own homes in comfort and security.

This is achieved through the counselling of individual householders and then by organizing agreed building repairs or alterations, making use of builders known to provide a good service.

Although the terms Care and Repair and Staying Put are closely identified with Care and Repair Ltd and with Anchor, there are a number of locally-run schemes, not in association with either organization, which also make use of them. However, all the agencies involved, which are either voluntary or run by the local authority, are non-profit-making.

Care and Repair Ltd is a friendly society set up and financed by Shelter and the Housing Associations Charitable Trust in order to develop and support local projects and to campaign for better housing conditions for elderly owner-occupiers and private tenants. Local Care and Repair schemes employ one or two project workers, who have substantial local knowledge, to advise the elderly.

The building work is paid for by the householder, most commonly from a local authority grant, a building society interest-only loan — a "maturity loan", or from sav-



## The exploding growth of the rapidly greying element in our society

ings. However, since the building societies became subject to consumer credit law, their involvement in this lending has all but dried up. The only big society still advancing loans is Nationwide Anglia, which makes up to £1 million available each month.

Mrs Janice Casey, director of Care and Repair Ltd, believes that "old people have as much right to sensible housing repair advice as they do to a home help service".

Although she admits that it is difficult to know how many people actually need help, with nine of the Government's part-funded Care and Repair schemes up and running, and more to follow by the start of the new year — plus six extra ones funded by the Welsh Office — Mrs Casey will not be content until there is a national network.

She pictures a grim future getting grimmer unless the problem of adequate funding for all Care and Repair and Staying Put schemes is urgently addressed.

"Without resources, the only way in which the situa-

tion can get better is if today's elderly homeowners die and their pre-1919 houses are bought up by younger people. But then there's the next generation, currently in their steadily deteriorating inter-war semis."

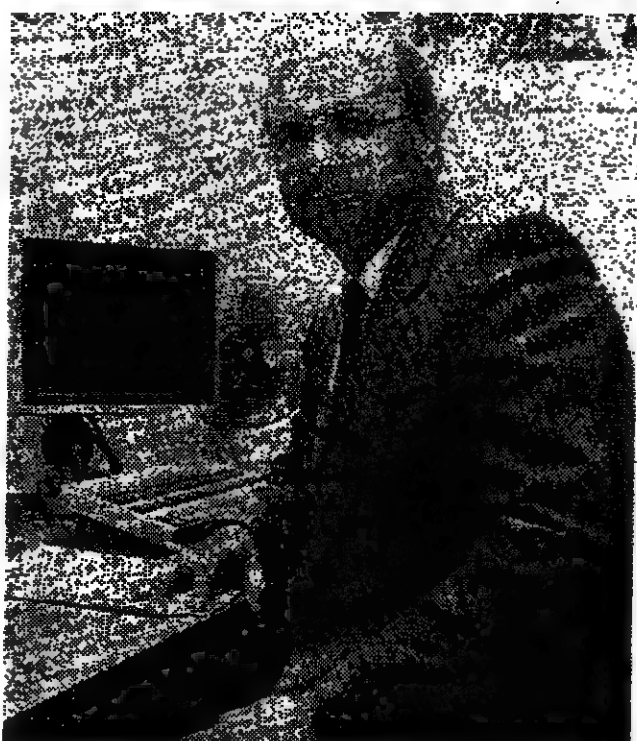
Mrs Casey says: "Quite a lot of Care and Repair activity is 'bailing out' work that has already been started but has proceeded unsatisfactorily."

She takes an all-embracing view of the task of anyone involved in giving housing advice: "Having a huge amount of work done to your house is just as traumatic as moving. It is irresponsible to regard the job as dealing only with building work. You cannot shut your eyes to the problems of the old."

Care and Repair's "part-



People who care: David Hobman, director of Age Concern England, top left, with two pensioners; Janice Casey, director of Care and Repair Ltd, above; and Nigel Appleton, of Anchor, left



year interested in having repairs — figures which match Care and Repair's operation — and a little under half will not proceed. "I don't see that as failure. If people have made a decision, that's better than doing nothing. We counsel people on all the options open to them. If they've been referred for Staying Put we don't bolt them to the floor!"

David Bookbinder, of Age Concern, welcomes the Care and Repair and Staying Put schemes. He says: "These agencies are the householder's best protection against the cowboy builder and the rip-off merchant."

"However, we should remember that probably 95 per cent of the elderly do not have an agency service in their area. All schemes are understaffed, and some dare not advertise for fear of being overwhelmed."

"Age Concern does not believe that voluntary organizations alone can do the job; it is unthinkable that they could. Local authorities need the power and the finance to operate in this area of need."

Anthony Cox

● Contact Care and Repair Ltd, 175 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UX (01-278 6371). Anchor Housing Trust, Oxford House, 13/15 Magdalen Street, Oxford OX1 3BP (0845-722261).

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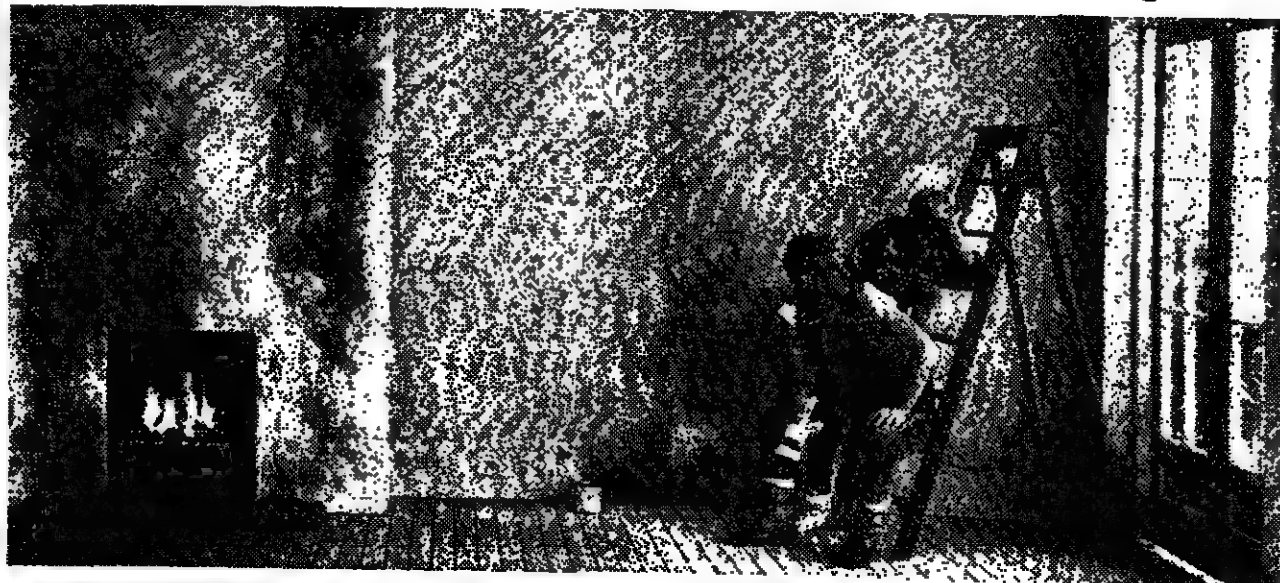
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## TENNIS

# Two with a sense of place are likely to fill the vacancies

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Julie Salmon and Clare Wood, who have the sense to live in Sussex, are likely to fill the two vacant places in Britain's Wightman Cup team. Julie Salmon, 22, and Clare Wood, 19, have both been chosen to play against the United States in Virginia from October 29 to 31. Annabel Croft, out of form, is not being considered.

Miss Salmon, aged 22, and Miss Wood, aged 19, have both been chosen to play against the United States in Virginia from October 29 to 31. Annabel Croft, out of form, is not being considered.

## New possibilities in Davis Cup

By Richard Evans

For several weeks now, the tennis world has been speculating that the Davis Cup final will be held in Australia, having to travel north in defence of the Cup, would be the visitors.

For the international tennis community, the Davis Cup is the most prestigious of all. It is the only trophy which is contested by men's national teams. The trophy is named after Dwight Davis, an American who introduced tennis to the British Isles in 1878.

## SQUASH RACKETS

## Best finds Burgess at a loss

By Colin McQuillan

England's world championship campaign in New Zealand ended in a first setback yesterday when Suzanne Burgess, fourth in the national rankings and seeded ninth for this women's world open title, lost 3-9, 9-4, 9-3, 9-6 to Rebecca Bates, the second-ranked Irish player.

Honours were somewhat balanced in the third round in Auckland later in the day when Fiona Gleave overcame the Irish No. 1, Mary Byrne, the 16th seed, 9-0, 9-0, 9-7, 9-2.

These results may be good news for other English players. Miss Bates plays Lucy Souter, the fourth seed, who has probably the hardest draw in the championship and will be pleased to avoid Miss Burgess.

Today, Miss Gleave plays Alison Cumming, who will see the defeat of Miss Burgess as assisting her own campaign.

Susan Devoy, the world champion, won her second successive 9-0, 9-0, 9-0 victory—this time over Scotland's Shirley Brown—and Vicki Cardwell, of Australia, won by a similarly ruthless margin against Sweden's Annette Abjholm.

Also among those vying for

## BADMINTON

## Gibson breaks the English barrier

By Richard Eaton

Anne Gibson, aged 18, of Dumfries, became the first Scottish woman to beat opponents South of the border when she upset the English national finalist, Sarah Halsall, in the international sponsored by British Rail at the Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh yesterday.

Indeed no one could remember it having happened in this fixture since the Fifties. Miss Gibson did it 5-11, 11-1, 11-6 and managed it with the help of a number of errors from Halsall which were accepted without ceremony because she is a talent of unusual promise.

Round the head, Miss Gibson was extremely strong, and once the prospect of victory beckoned, that too was something she found easy to take.

Young Miss Gibson may be, but such are the rising standards on the world grand prix circuit that time is short if she is to become one of the few Scots to overcome economic disadvantage and make it. She is already considering giving up her job as an accounts clerk and moving to London. If she is to try, she should try now, as yesterday's results suggested.

## JUDO

## Feathers to fly for featherweights

By Nicholas Sokomes

If the essence of judo competition is confrontation, there will be no shortage of thrills in the British Open for women at Crystal Palace tomorrow as leading overseas and domestic competitors make their final quest for tickets to the world championship in Essen, West Germany, next month.

The entry—one of the largest for many years—is strewn with world champions past and present, led by the two most dominant figures—Ingrid Berghmans, of Belgium, the light heavyweight, and Karen Briggs, of Britain.

inclusion in the demonstration event at the Olympics, will be Britain's two other world champions, Ann Hughes, the lightweight and Diane Bell in the light middleweight class.

But for sheer confrontation, it will be the fierce domestic rivalry of the featherweights, Lorena Doyle, from London, and Sharon Rendle, of Grimsby, which should make all other contests appear academic.

Miss Doyle, world champion in 1982, but struggling since fracturing her shoulder defending her title in 1984, has returned with her throwing skills and tactical sense arguably sharper. Aged 24, she may not be at her peak, and has the psychological advantage of beating Miss Rendle twice in their last two meetings.

Miss Rendle, aged 21, is the world bronze medal winner. She lacks Doyle's shrewd tactical awareness, but has wider throwing skills and perhaps the stronger ground work. If they both come through their sides of the draw to the final, the Crystal Palace crowd can look forward to a strong physical battle, and a contest between ambition and experience.

## Judges' room with a gloomy view of a mediocre day at Chatsworth



Under scrutiny: Paddy Minn puts Barnabus Brown through its paces on the first day of the dressage phase yesterday (Photograph: Steve Etherington)

## Resolution gives lead to Tucker

By Jenny MacArthur

With the exception of Angela Tucker, the overnight leader, a handful of others, the first day of dressage at yesterday's Chatsworth Andri Horse Trials in Derbyshire was remarkable only for its mediocrity.

Mrs Tucker, the wife of Sarah Tucker, who was sold to Japan in August, was seen to buy.

A last word for the ladies. Glynis Coles, aged 33, who was ranked No. 2 or No. 3 in Britain from 1974-1977 inclusive, has beaten two seeds—Denise Parnell and Sally Reeves—to reach the quarter-finals. All credit to Miss Coles.

At the same time her advance poses a question. By now, such gallant representatives of the over-30s should have been engulfed by the rising tide of youth.

SEAN'S ANALYSIS: Third round: S Bates 11-1, 11-6, 11-1, 11-6; S Gibson 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Halsall 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Rendle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Doyle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Briggs 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Hughes 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bell 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Devoy 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Cumming 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Gleave 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Byrne 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bates 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Gibson 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Halsall 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Rendle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Doyle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Briggs 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Hughes 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bell 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Devoy 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Cumming 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Gleave 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Byrne 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bates 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Gibson 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Halsall 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Rendle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Doyle 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Briggs 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Hughes 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bell 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Devoy 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Cumming 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Gleave 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Byrne 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; S Bates 5-11, 11-1, 11-6; 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# Umpires dismiss television help in decision-making



Bird: critic of gadgetry

By Ivo Tennant

Umpires from the seven Test-playing countries participating in the World Cup have criticized the sponsors' suggestion that they be given pocket televisions to help them make decisions during the competition. Dickie Bird said he was "amazed" that such an idea had been mooted.

Reliance Industries, the official sponsors, felt that television replays for leg-before and bat-and-pad catches. The response, though, has been that electronic gadgets would undermine the ability of the umpire.

"Gadgets take a lot away from the umpire," said Bird. "They cannot help you make decisions as you have to take many things into consideration." David Shepherd,

who will also be officiating, said that if such an aid was brought to umpiring, a book of rules might as well be placed behind the stumps.

P W Vidanagamage, the Sri Lankan umpire, went further. "An umpire would become a nonentity," he said. "The batsmen and bowlers fail to deliver the goods when they commit mistakes. Why can't the umpire make his legitimate share of mistakes?" Tony Crafter, the Australian umpire, said that at present technology was not good enough to justify assistance from a pocket television.

Meanwhile, Pakistan are blaming India for the skirmishes last week in Kashmir and are claiming India's reports of the incidents were exaggerated. Pakistan's Minister for Defence, Naem Mahmood, told Parliament that troops had inflicted heavy casualties on Indian troops

while defending their positions.

Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has expressed his displeasure to Margaret Alva, his Sports Minister, over the large advertisements for cigarettes and whisky plastered all round the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. Mr Gandhi watched the warm-up match between India and Pakistan on Wednesday. A month ago, the Sports Minister sent circulars to all of India's sports federations telling them not to display hoardings advertising liquor and tobacco.

England's first practice session yesterday was marred by an outbreak of stomach upsets, commonly known as "Delhi belly". Mike Gatting remained in his hotel room and of four fellow-sufferers, Athley, Gooch, Jarvis and Pringle, only Pringle completed the session. In addition, Embury has been advised to rest for a week after spraining an ankle and DeFreitas has a chest infection.

"We never intended to do very much and I think stomach trouble is only to be expected when you are settling into a foreign country and eating different types of food," said Mickey Stewart, England's manager. They have taken the precaution of bringing a microwave oven with them, but as yet have not done any home cooking.

For the first time on an England tour, the party includes a doctor who specializes in malaria and dysentery, Tony Hall, who comes from the Hospital of Tropical Diseases in London. England fly to Pakistan today and have another week to prepare for their first match on October 9.

The Australian party, though, are convinced they lack nothing in

fitness. Alan Crompton, their manager, said Allan Border was in excellent shape after playing in England. "I do not think we are lacking at all by coming out of an Australian winter," said Crompton. "Dean Jones, Bruce Reid and Steve Waugh have also been in England and Peter Taylor, have just returned from a tour of Zimbabwe with New South Wales."

The Australians were unable to hold net practice as planned yesterday owing to a groundsman having watered the run wickets and Delhi overnight. They had to resort to cement pitches and a long fielding session in the heat.

● Pakistan will play three Tests, two one-day internationals and three other matches on their tour of West Indies next year. The six-week tour will begin on March 6.

END COLUMN

## Europe misses shuttle bus

By Richard Eaton

This month's news that yet another major badminton event — the world grand prix final in Hong Kong — is going to the Far East is a matter of serious concern not only for Europe's leading players who are worried that the top level professional game here might die if the trend is not reversed.

The issue is broader than that. Prize-money of six figures has already been guaranteed for open tournaments in Asia next year. That means the million-dollar total which the circuit has already reached is merely a beginning. The game has an extremely prosperous future. If we fail to carve out a slice of that fat cake for ourselves, it will be an economic waste and a notable disappointment for British sport.

The commercial development of the International Badminton Federation (IBF) is led by an abstrusely eloquent Glaswegian businessman, Craig Reddie, who points out finger quite clearly: "There needs to be a higher degree of enthusiasm for the promotion of the commercial game among major European associations," he said.

"Rather than European associations or the Press saying 'why don't the IBF do something', it's rather more up to the European associations themselves to do something about it. If they want to have very prestigious events then they simply have to go out and sell them to sponsors and television — in whatever order. They have to compete in world terms on prize-money. Once they do that they have reason to complain if Asian players won't come to play."

The IBF's part in all of this since the game went open in 1979 has been to follow the pull of the invisible but one-sidedly powerful hand of market forces. Ironically, the original decision to take badminton down the commercial road was made by a strongly European based group.

Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Taipei have all resurrected events with big prize-money. The Japanese Open has for some time been one of the top four tournaments and the Chinese Open is a new and exciting development. By contrast, the European championships has yet to acquire sponsorship, television, or any prize-money at all. According to Ciro Cingillo, the most successful manager England ever had: "If the European Badminton Union doesn't get it back together it will be left behind."

Such Asian enterprise is admirable. However, it creates both a beautiful vista and a dilemma. It is difficult for the IBF at this stage to reward such initiative by turning round and allocating funds to another part of the globe, especially to three big associates like Denmark, England and Sweden.

The weakness of the IBF's position is that the 1989 world championships, the easiest event to move around, should surely have come to Europe but has gone to the Far East again. This was more than a surprise. The votes were nine to Indonesia and eight to Denmark with allegations that Indonesia offered free holidays on Bali to IBF council members and their wives.

Reddie is emphatic that this offer was no more than a joke. He does however turn another of his fingers upon his own federation. "I am certain that it was a tactical mistake," he said. "The intention of the world championships right from the start was for them to go round the world. On that basis, Denmark was the rightful host."

## Cash could be playing in British tennis

Wimbledon champion Pat Cash is to be offered the chance to play in Britain's Mortgage Corporation-sponsored tennis league. His fellow Australian, Charlie Fancutt, is hoping to persuade him to join a new Cardiff-based team.

Fancutt plans to talk with Cash in America, though he faces competition from the London-based teams. They will see Cash's frequent visits to his Putney home as the chance to land his signature.

Cash, aged 22, would be the biggest catch from a crowd-point of view — his headband trademark and action style making him a favourite with Wimbledon crowds over the years — but the Swedes, Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd, are also targets for teams in the league.

Details of the re-organised league, to start in February, will be announced next week.

## Tough for Swedes at the toughest hole in the world

By Mitchell Platts

It took the "toughest hole in the world" to save Greg Norman from defeat and rescue Australia from a first-round disaster in the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews yesterday. Norman insists there is no more intimidating stretch of golfing terrain than the 461 yards of the infamous 17th "Road Hole".

So as he stepped on to the tee, one shot behind Mats Lanner, he clung to the hope that the Swede might be beaten purely by inexperience. The Australians were on the threshold of losing their unbeaten record in this medal match-play event as Ove Selberg had already comfortably moved past Rodger Davis with a 69 to a 75 to take Sweden ahead.

If Norman had lost it meant that the outcome of the third and final match between Peter Senior and Anders Forsbrand would have no bearing on an enthralling contest which had sprung to life courtesy of the valiant exploits of the amiable Lanner.

Norman had been a model of consistency — he hit all 18 greens in regulation figures only to take two putts at each one — and his only birdies had come at the long fifth and 14th holes. Lanner, who impressed Norman with his striking, possessed a silkier touch on the palatial Old Course greens and so, with the assistance of five birdies, he had forged his way into a one-shot lead.

### Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	370	4	10	342	4
2	411	4	11	172	3
3	371	4	12	316	4
4	483	4	13	425	4
5	463	4	14	565	4
6	416	4	15	419	4
7	372	4	16	382	4
8	178	3	17	461	4
9	350	4	18	354	4
Out 3,501 36			In 3,432 36		
Total yardage: 6,933			Par 72		

against the player who is rated No. 1 in the Sony world rankings.

What destroyed Lanner was a sudden inability to set his mind at ease as his approach settled on the bottom level of the notorious green, whereas Norman had carried a superb four-iron to within 35 feet of the cup.

Lanner was almost certainly inconvenienced by his ball landing in an area of "Ground Under Repair," which measured no more than one foot in diameter. He was allowed to take a drop, not under penalty, but in the time that took him to do so he became mesmerized by the Road Hole bunker. He aimed further right, found himself standing in the area of "GUR," and took another drop.

"I didn't believe his putt when he hit it," Norman said. "But he was obviously in two minds, thrown out by the situation, and it is easy for that to happen on this hole. I'm never sure whether it is a fair hole or not but I would say that, whatever the conditions, it is the toughest hole I've played anywhere."

Lanner's putt, struck too hard, rolled over the green and on to the path beyond. His first attempt to get back on to the putting surface rolled back down the bank. His next, struck firmer, went 20 feet past. Somehow he summoned the courage to make that putt, for a six, but Norman, down in four, was now one ahead and on his way to victory. Behind him Senior closed out Forsbrand.

"I'm glad Australia won but it was really sad that it should happen that way," Norman added. "This hole has been the nemesis for many, many golfers and it will stay that way for a long time to come. It was a close match and I'm pleased for Peter Senior because he actually returned here just for this event."

Zainal Abidin Yusof, aged 43, of Malaysia, will also never forget the 17th hole. He came to it all square with Nobumitsu Yuhara, of Japan, but took 10 there, after hitting a four-wood over the green and on to the road, and with that Japan moved past Malaysia 2-1.

In contrast, Constantino Rocca, of Italy, holed in one with a five-iron at the eighth against Curtis Strange. The American, however, rallied to win by one shot as his country overcame the Italians 3-0.

England, Ireland and Scotland all comfortably progressed.

**Rosi challenge**  
Lupe Aquino, of Mexico, defends his World Boxing Council light middleweight title against Gianfranco Rosi, the Argentine champion, in Perugia tonight.

**Backing youth**  
Britain will send under-19 and under-21 teams to compete in the world and European ice hockey championships next year.

**Virgo is sunk**  
by Davis  
By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis ruthlessly punished a series of errors to overcome John Virgo 5-2 and move into the semi-finals of the Fidelity Unit Trusts International at Stoke-on-Trent last night.

A unique feature of this championship is that the sponsors are offering payments — in the form of their wares — to eight nominated charities, with each of the quarter-finalists representing a charity. The eventual winner will benefit his cause with £40,000 which matches the player's own first prize.

Virgo was representing the RNLI, but Davis, the world champion and world No. 1, gave him few opportunities. Virgo won the opening frame but Davis, who is representing Mencap, moved 4-1 ahead.

Virgo recovered somewhat with a clearance of 30 to win sixth frame from 44-17 down and then moved 5-0 ahead in the seventh frame. But a sloppy safety shot then let Davis in for a break of 43 and after a protracted battle on the colours, Virgo finally fluked a snooker on the blue. Although Virgo escaped, he left it to Davis to clear the last three colours for victory.

Eugene Hughes was also in charitable mood as the Irishman scored a rare hatful of chances, extended by Cliff Thorburn of Canada to lose 5-1. Thorburn thus increased his remarkable record at this Trentham Gardens venue to 16 victories in 17 matches.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S Davis (eng) bt J Virgo (eng) 5-2. Frame scores (Davis first): 47-66, 74-60, 80-22, 65-39, 55-44, 44-77, 74-66. C Thorburn (can) bt E Hughes (ire) 5-1. Frame scores (Thorburn first): 73-75, 49-64, 75-73, 64-26, 64-26.

## RAC tries for Grand Prix shift

By David Tremayne

The Motor Sports Association (MSA) branch of the Royal Automobile Club confirmed yesterday that Brands Hatch is its preferred venue for the 1988 British Grand Prix. This marks the first official reaction by the national governing body to the deal forged between the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) and the rival track, Silverstone, in May 1986.

It has taken the MSA a long time to reach its decision, but the move indicates the determination of the new chief executive, Peter Hammond, aged 53, to smarten up its act. "We feel that alteration of the race between Silverstone and Brands Hatch is in the best interests of the sport, to avoid a monopoly," he said.

In May 1986, John Foulstone, the computer millionaire who was killed testing at Silverstone last Tuesday, bought Brands Hatch, Oulton Park and Snetterton from Eagle Star for £5.25 million.

Within a week, the announcement was made that FISA, the international governing body, had approved an exclusive five-year deal between Silverstone and FOCA. On the face of it, the deal had been made following the new FISA guidelines that each nation should have only one circuit hosting its Grand Prix.

At the time, Ernie Ecclestone, of FOCA — who has since been appointed as the FISA vice-president of marketing — justified the deal by citing Silverstone's superior scope for improvement of its facilities.

At this year's Shell Oils British Grand Prix at Silverstone, however, Ecclestone was critical of a number of factors.

At the recent Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez, speculation was further fuelled as Brands' chief executive, John Webb, and Silverstone's group marketing manager, John Edden, refused to comment on suggestions that both circuits had decided to enter into a deal to alternate the Grand Prix and share the profits over a 10-year period.

The RAC MSA statement affirms its hope that FISA will modify its one-nation, one-circuit ruling to cater for the special circumstances in the United Kingdom — which, after all, leads the world in motor sport — and return to the old system that had run since 1964. Hammond stressed that "alternation to us means only two circuits," apparently ruling out Donington Park in Leicestershire, which had a long-standing agreement with the RAC MSA for a Grand Prix date in 1988.

## A narrow escape for Rangers

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Rangers were within 20 centimetres of going out of the European Cup. After employing the unusual tactic of decreasing the width of their pitch on Wednesday night, they were accused by their opponents, Dynamo Kiev, of unsportsmanlike behaviour, but were found to be innocent of the more serious charge of malpractice.

Jan Huijbregts, UEFA's Dutch observer at the second leg of the first-round tie, was approached by concerned officials of the Soviet Union champions at half-time. He was asked to measure the distance between touchline and touchline, but rejected the request "as it was not possible to do so at that stage".

But after Rangers had won by 3-0 on the night and by 2-1 on aggregate, he checked the dimensions. And confirmed what Rangers already knew. The width was exactly 64.30 metres, a mere 20cm inside the minimum requirements for a European fixture. Soundness had deliberately reduced the size of the normal pitch by some 10 yards.

He wanted to limit the span

## Linfield must await judgement

By George Ace

The ugly side of football showed itself briefly at Windsor Park on Wednesday night as Linfield lost 4-2 to Lillestrom, to bow out of the European Cup in the first round. 5-3 on aggregate. In two separate incidents in the first five minutes of the second half, a brick and bottles were thrown from behind the goal defended by the Finns.

The referee stopped the game, took the brick to the dugout and issued a warning. Two minutes after the restart two bottles sailed onto the pitch and the security forces left those concerned in no doubt that they were under scrutiny by closed circuit television.

That warning had the de-

## New Celtic offer is rejected

By Dennis Signy

Celtic's hopes of persuading West Ham to part with Frank McAvennie, a life-long supporter of the Park Head club, were further rebuffed yesterday despite an increased offer for the forward.

Although McAvennie has failed to score in nine games this season, John Lyall, the West Ham manager, said the new bid still did not meet his club's valuation.

Lyall said: "We appreciate the player's feeling for Celtic over the years but we do not want to lose him. The position is that we don't have to sell anyone. If we sell McAvennie, or any other player for that matter, we would have to buy a top quality player of equal ability."

Lyall would not confirm Celtic's offer, believed to be around £700,000, or put a price on McAvennie. His decision to decline for the second time followed a board meeting the previous evening.

McAvennie, who has won four caps for Scotland, cost West Ham £340,000 when they signed him from St Mirren in June 1985.

Reddie is emphatic that this offer was no more than a joke. He does however turn another of his fingers upon his own federation. "I am certain that it was a tactical mistake," he said. "The intention of the world championships right from the start was for them to go round the world. On that basis, Denmark was the rightful host."

The weakness of the IBF's position is that the 1989 world championships, the easiest event to move around, should surely have come to Europe but has gone to the Far East again. This was more than a surprise. The votes were nine to Indonesia and eight to Denmark with allegations that Indonesia offered free holidays on Bali to IBF council members and their wives.

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## ONCE A CATHOLIC?

'I am a Roman Catholic but don't go to church any more.'

I was baptised a Catholic but never knew much about it.

'I've been away so long, I wouldn't know what to do.'

'I've just drifted away and need something to get me started again.'

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Frost: Danish master

## On target

Petr Kurka, of Czechoslovakia, set a world record of 1,283.4 points yesterday in the men's small-bore rifle three positions at the Seoul World Cup competition to surpass the 1,278.1 set by Kirill Ivanov, of the Soviet Union.

St Helens have transfer-listed Barry Ledger, the Great Britain wing, for £50,000 as he has missed training since being dropped 10 days ago.

**Ledger on list**

**Receiving end**

The Awa squash rackets tournament next month will feature American-style scoring with each match lasting for 25 points, and the rally winner collecting a point whether server or receiver.

**Craven ill**

Danie Craven, the South African rugby union president for 31 years, said yesterday he would soon undergo open heart surgery to replace a defective aorta.

**Sella injured**

Philippe Sella, the France rugby union centre, has withdrawn with a hamstring injury from the French Barbarians team to play Penarth on Wednesday.

RESULTS: BARBARIANS: S Barrow (eng), A G Oller (eng), M Jackson (eng), F Mearns (eng), J Evans (wales), J P Lescarboura (eng), D Serodan (eng), J Smith (eng), P O'Donnell (eng), D Norris (eng), M Scott (eng), A Crocker (eng), D Lannan (eng), W Peggibson (eng), J P O'Donnell (eng), J P O'Donnell (eng).

صلى الله عليه وسلم